School of Theology at Claremont
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CUNEIFORM TEXTS

FROM

BABYLONIAN TABLETS, &c.,

IN THE

BRITISH MUSEUM.

PART XV.

(50 Plates.)

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEES.

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ST. MARTIN'S LANE.

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Part XV. of "Cuneiform Texts from Babylonian Tablets, etc.," contains texts from fifty-one baked clay tablets and fragments belonging to the Sumerian, the Old-Babylonian, the Assyrian, and the Neo-Babylonian Periods, which are preserved in the British Museum. The tablets are inscribed with mythological legends and religious texts, and may be thus described :—

(1.) Plates 1–6 :—Portions of Old-Babylonian Legends concerning the deities Bêl and Bêlit-ili, Shamash and Ninlil, Mama (*i.e.*, Bêlit-ili), Ishtar, Lellu, Ishum, Adad, Sin, Ningal, Pabilsag, etc. All these texts are here published for the first time.

(2.) Plates 7–30 :—Early Sumerian religious texts, consisting of addresses to the deities Mullil, Enlil (Bêl), Ner-unu-gal (Nergal), Mer (Adad), Enzu (Sin), Dumu-zi, Bau, Nin-gir-gi-lu, etc. All these are here published for the first time.

(3.) Plates 31–49 :—Assyrian and Babylonian Legends, including the tablets inscribed with the texts of the so-called "Fable of the Fox," and the "Fable of the Horse and the Ox," and fragments of other similar compositions; the legends concerning the Storm-god, Zû; the legend of the Descent of the goddess Ishtar into the Underworld; and the legend of Ea and Atar-khasis (?). The greater number of these tablets are here published for the first time.

(4.) Plate 50 :—The text of the Assyrian tablet of Moral Precepts (D.T. 1), which includes a number of warnings to a king against injustice.

The Old-Babylonian legends published on the first six plates are of the greatest possible interest, because of the light which they throw upon the age of Babylonian and Assyrian legends generally. It has long been suggested that the legends inscribed upon the late Assyrian and Neo-Babylonian tablets were copied from documents of a much earlier period, and this suggestion has been confirmed during the last few years by the discovery of some fragments of legends upon tablets of the period of the First Dynasty of Babylon, *i.e.*, about B.C. 2200–2100. In the texts here published for the first time we have examples of legends inscribed upon tablets which must date from a still earlier period. Although the legends are written in the Babylonian language, the archaic forms of the characters resemble those found upon the Sumerian tablets of accounts and upon temple-lists which were inscribed during the period of the Second Dynasty of Ur, *i.e.*, before B.C. 2200. The clay of which the tablets are composed also resembles that which was used by the Sumerians, who inhabited Babylonia before the Semitic Babylonians obtained complete possession of the country. It is interesting to note that these documents contain the familiar phrases and formulæ which are met with in the late Assyrian and Neo-Babylonian copies of the legends, a fact which tends to prove that much of the form, as well as the substance, of these works is to be traced back to the earlier periods of Babylonian history.

The early Sumerian religious texts printed on plates 7–30 are also of great interest, for they belong to a class of literature which is now represented for the first time.

The copies have been made by Mr. L. W. King, M.A., Assistant in the Department.

E. A. WALLIS BUDGE.

DEPARTMENT OF EGYPTIAN AND ASSYRIAN ANTIQUITIES,
BRITISH MUSEUM.

OCTOBER 1ST, 1902.

87535. OBVERSE.

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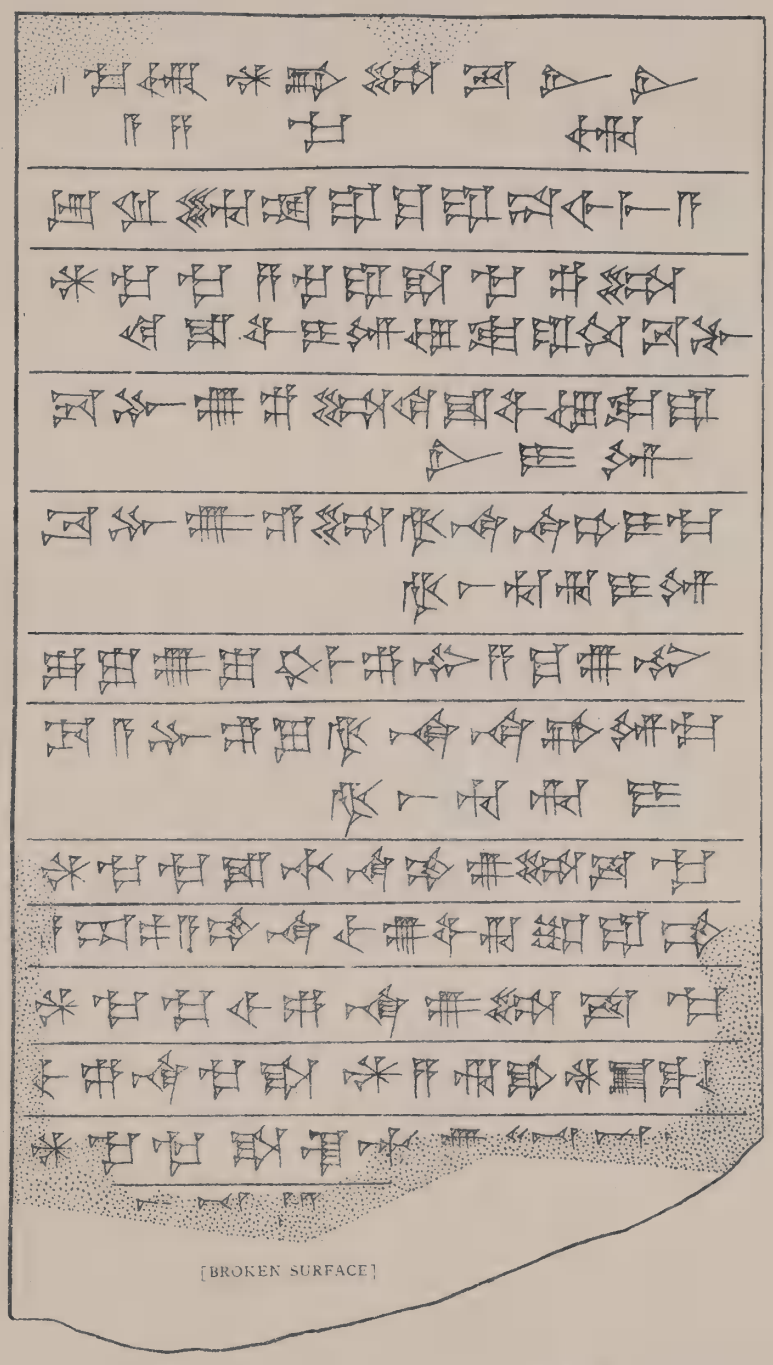
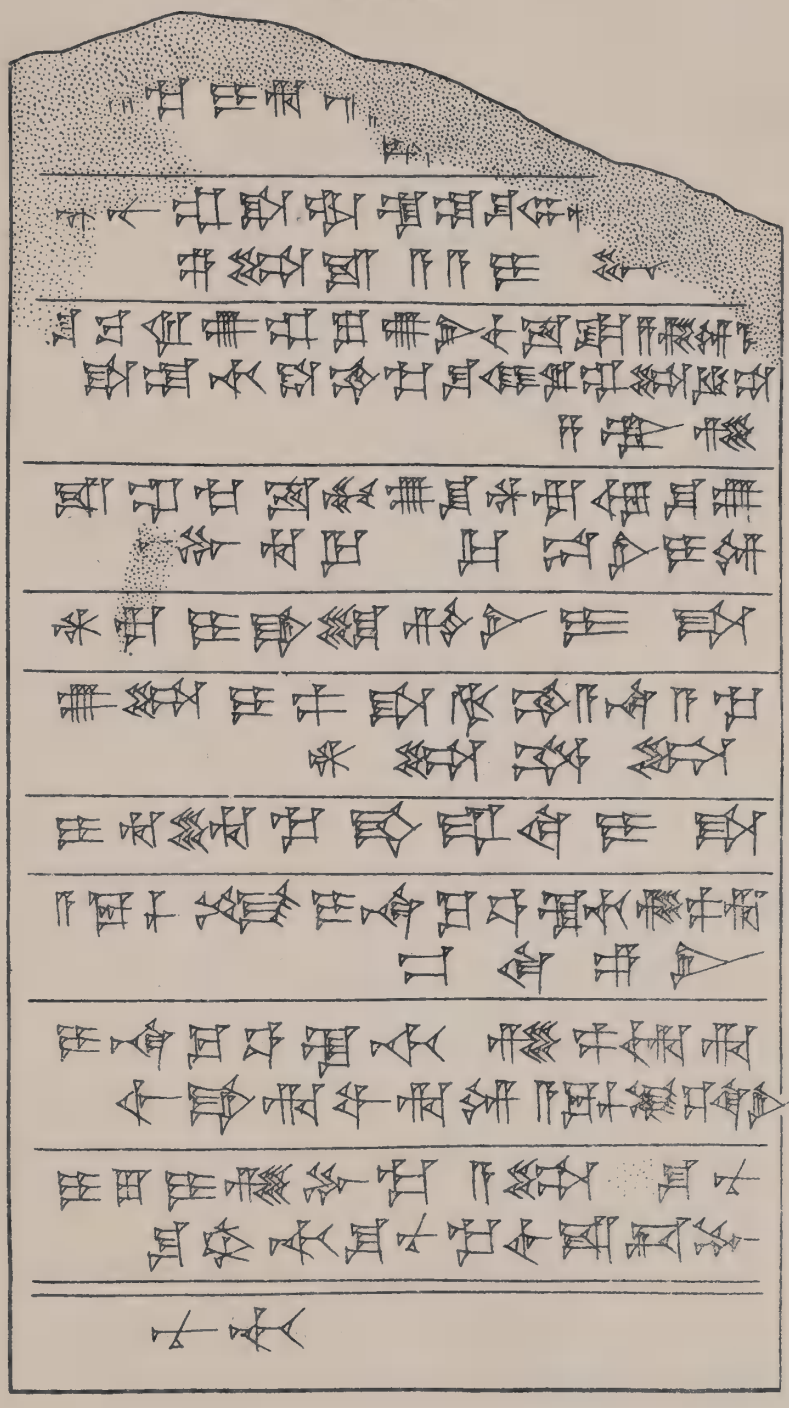


COL. II.

COL. II. (CONTINUED)

87535. REVERSE.

COL. VIII.



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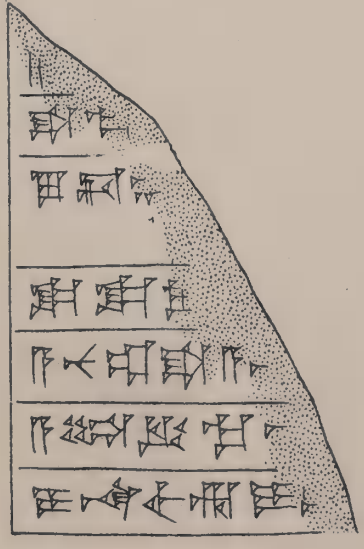

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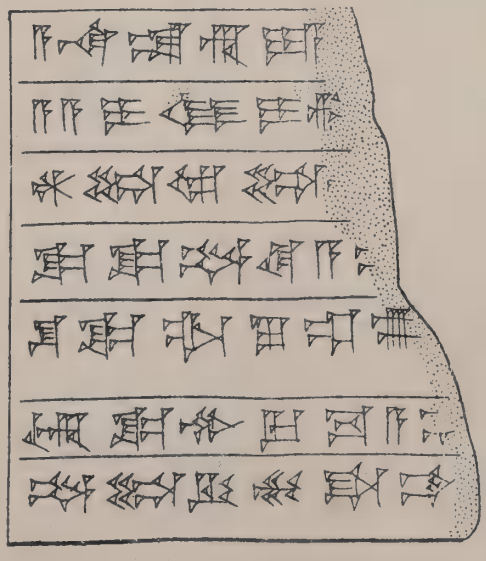

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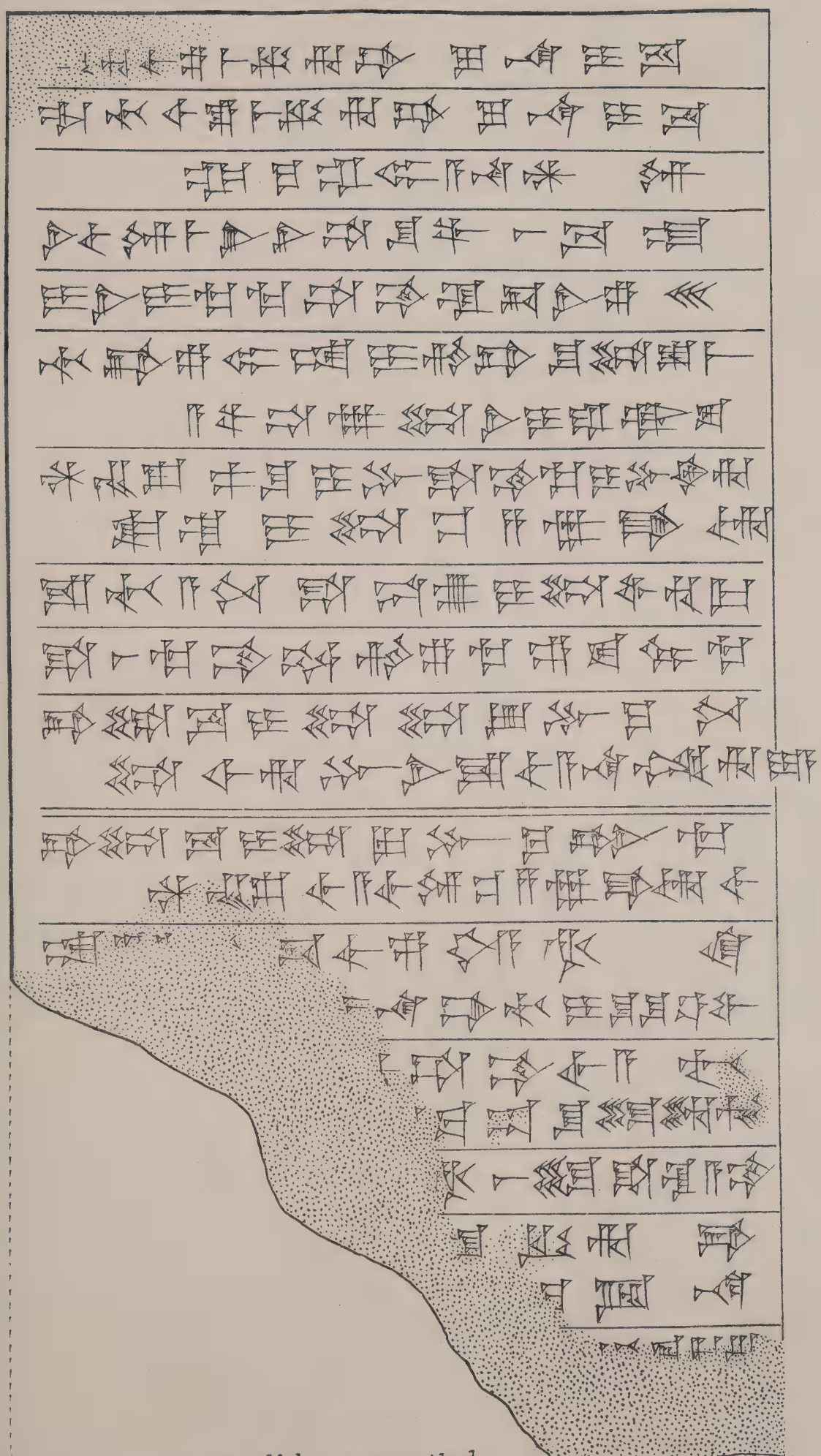

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93828. OBVERSE. (CONTINUED)

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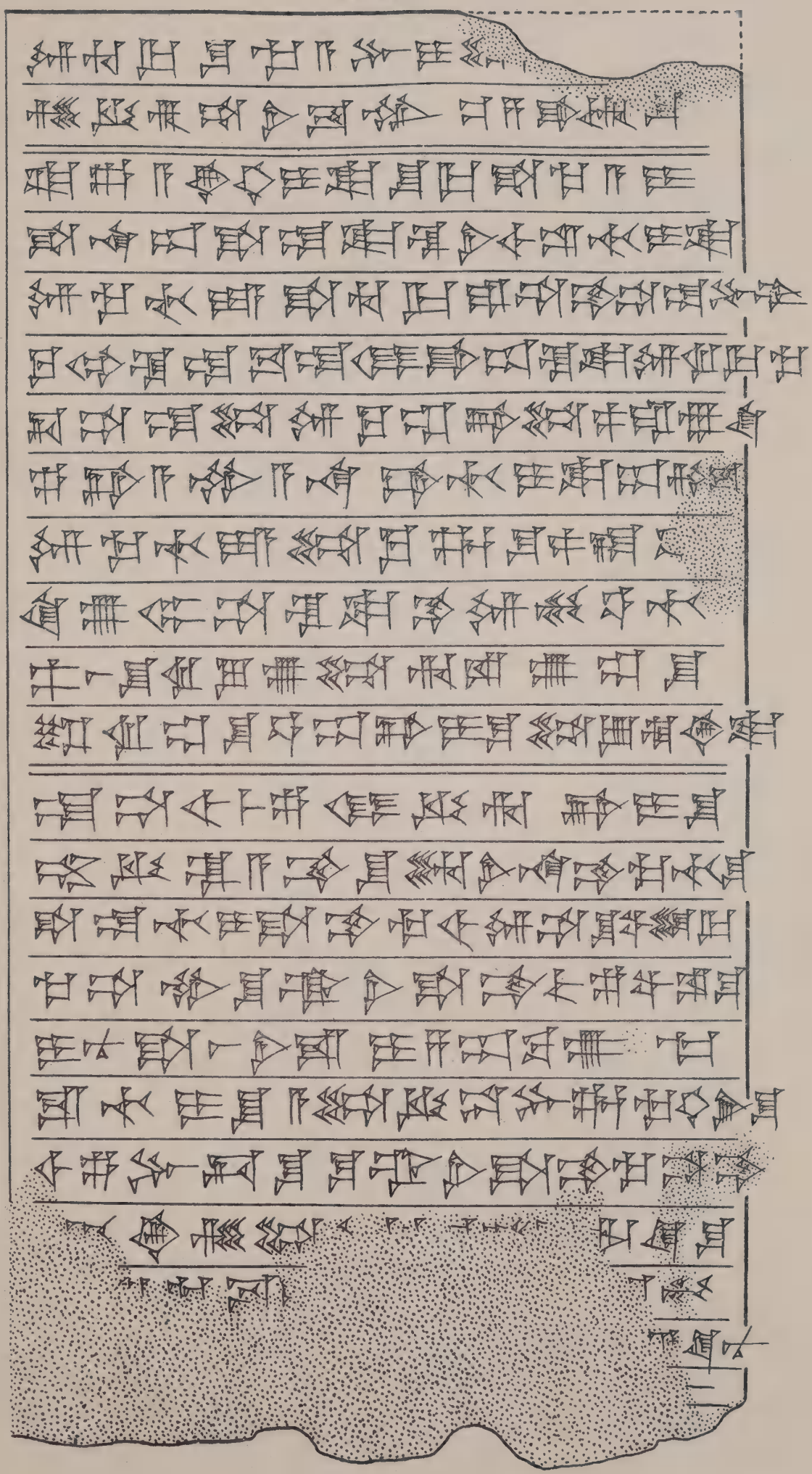

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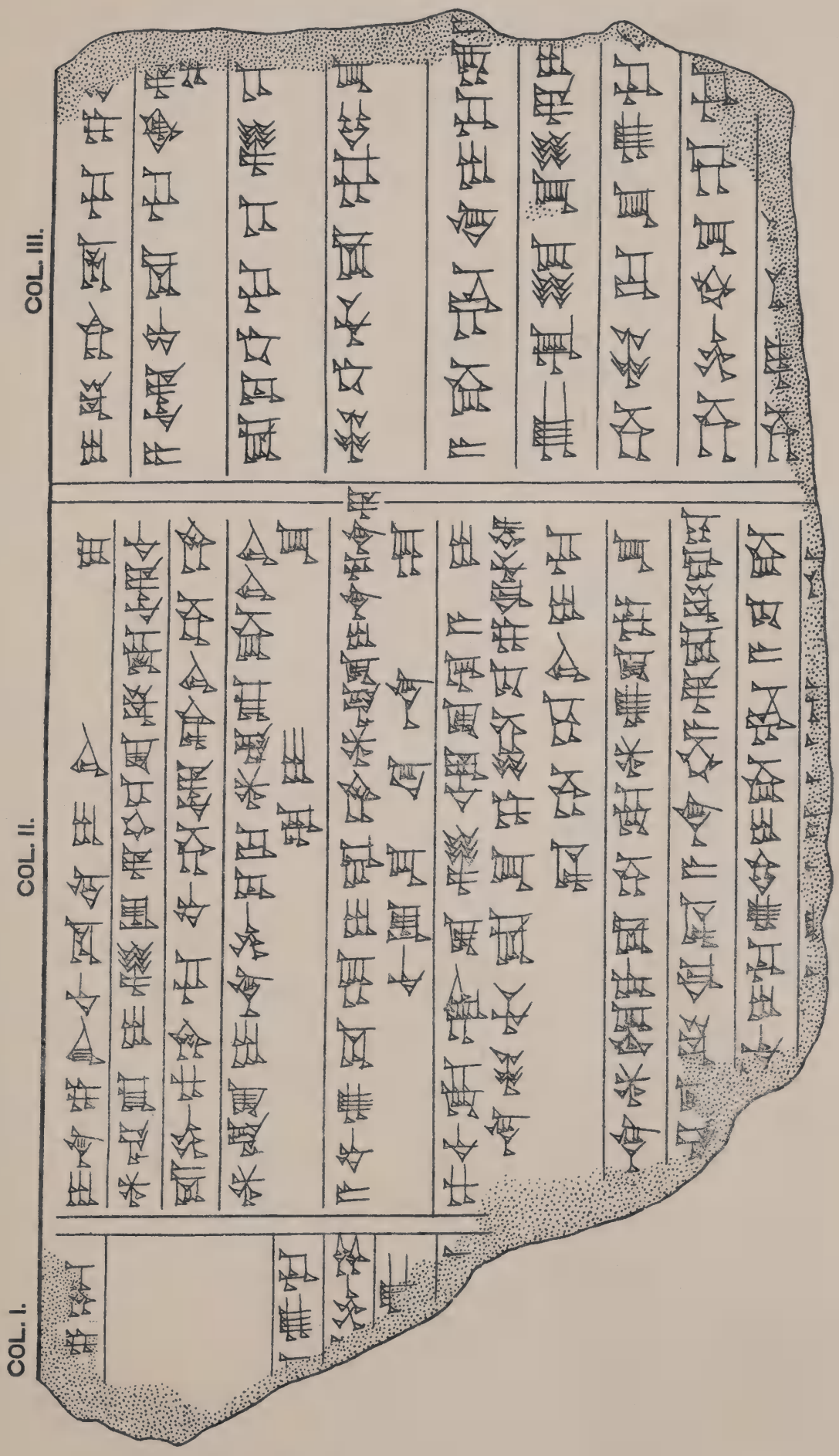

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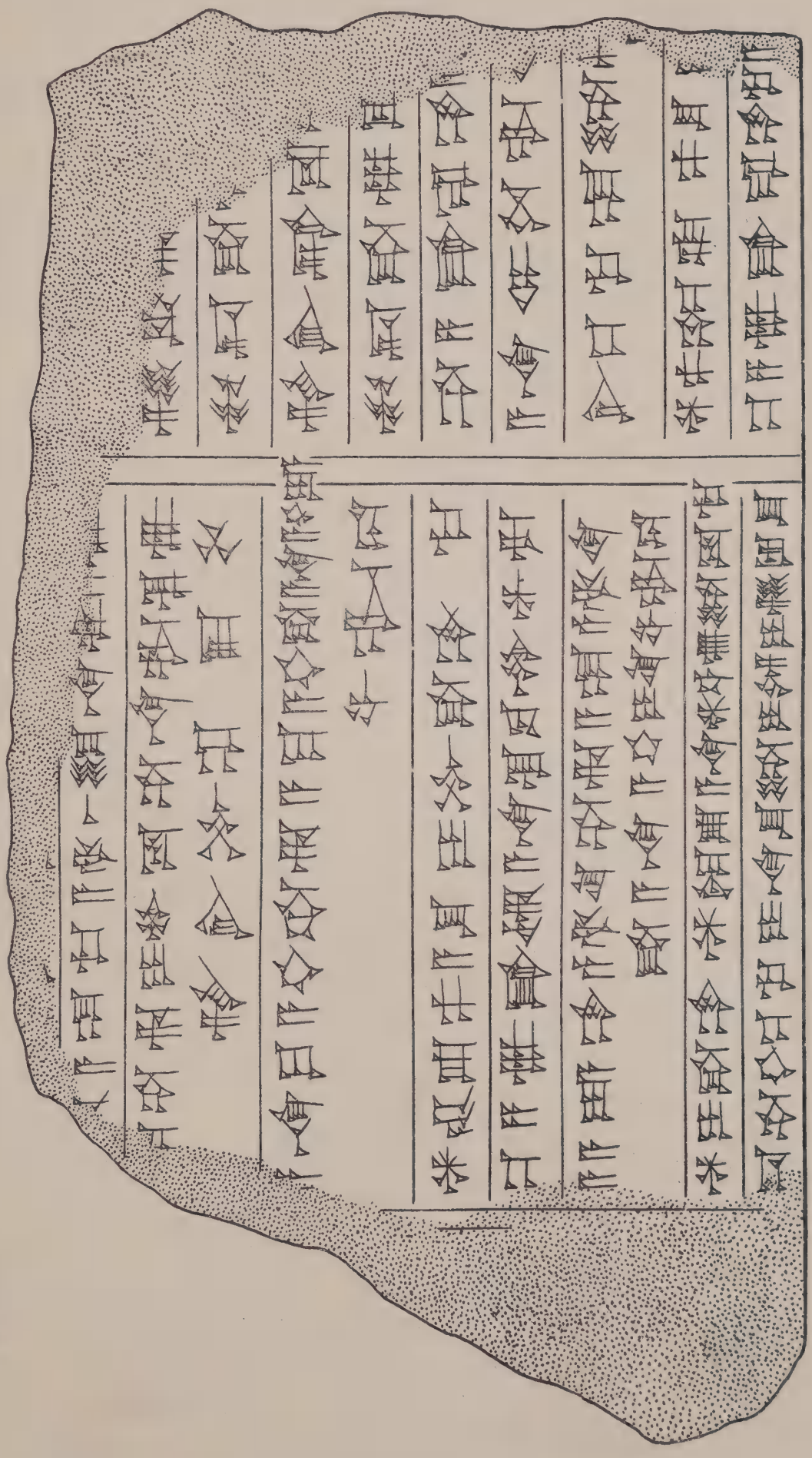

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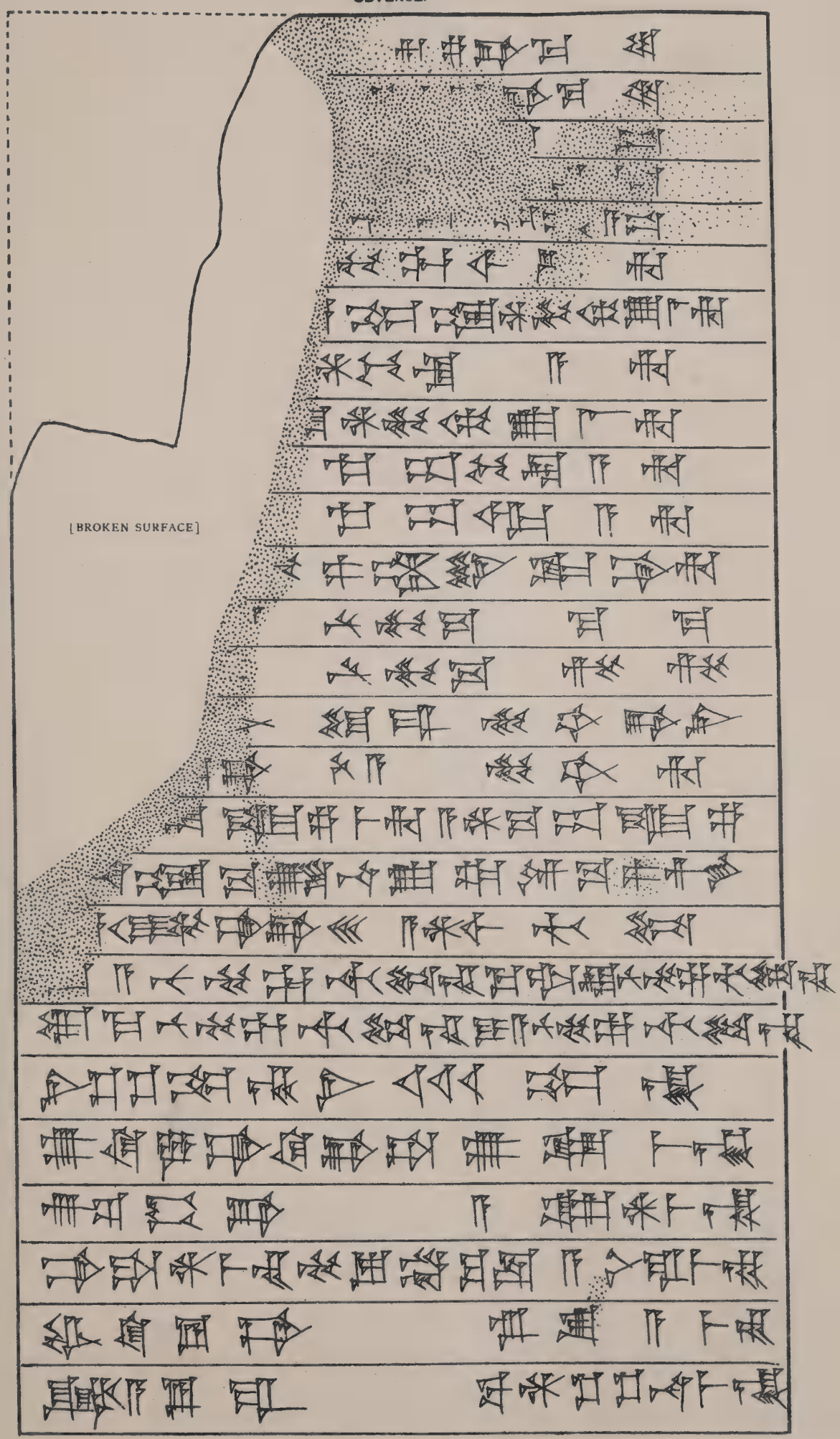

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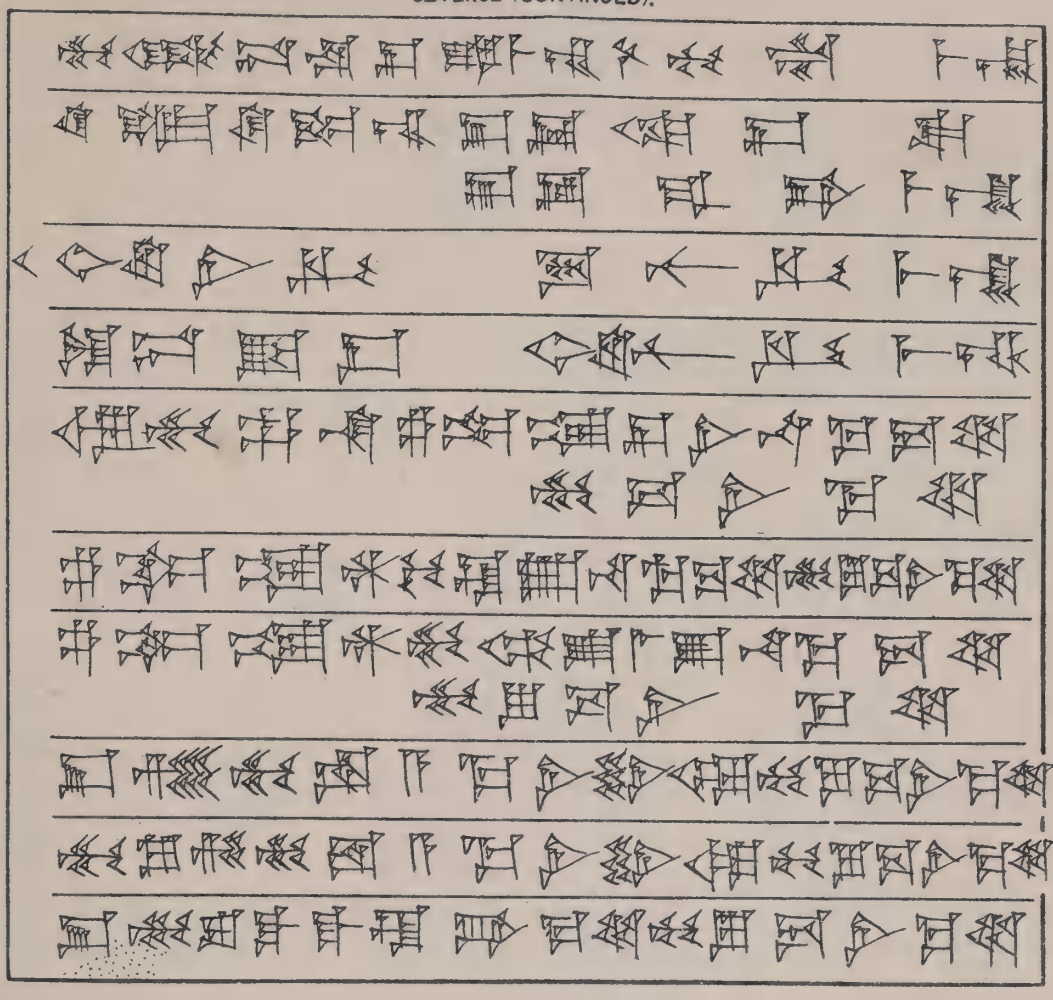

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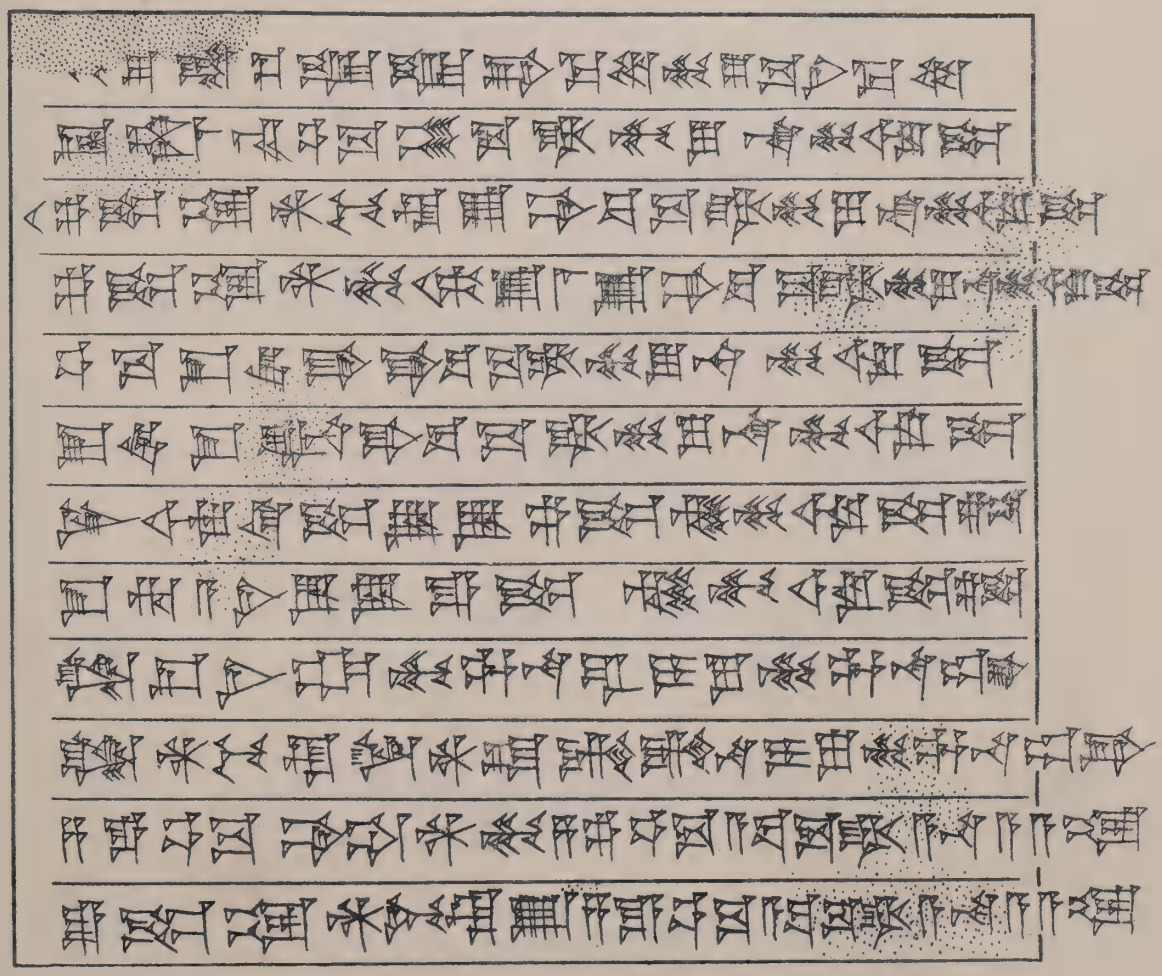

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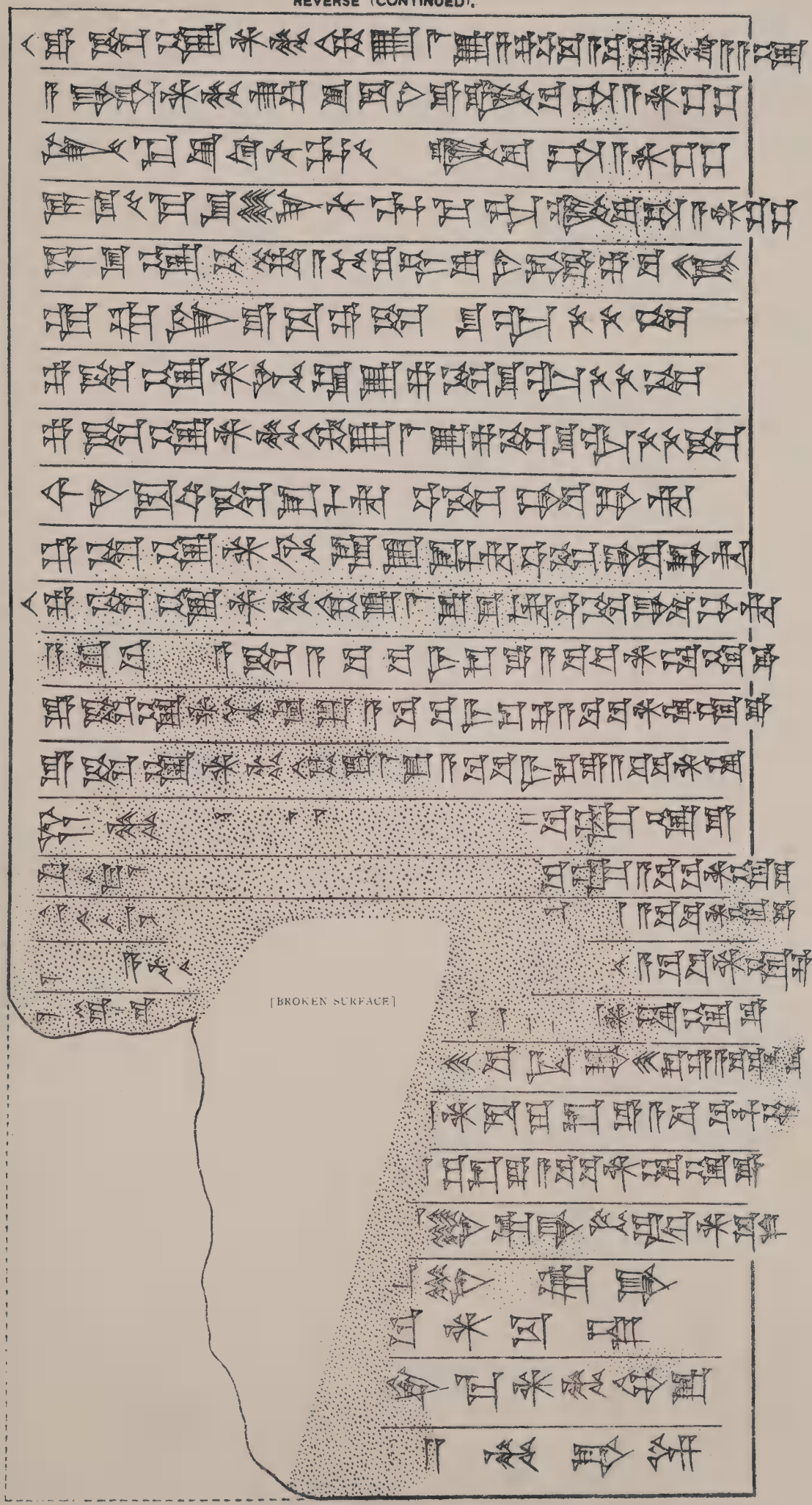
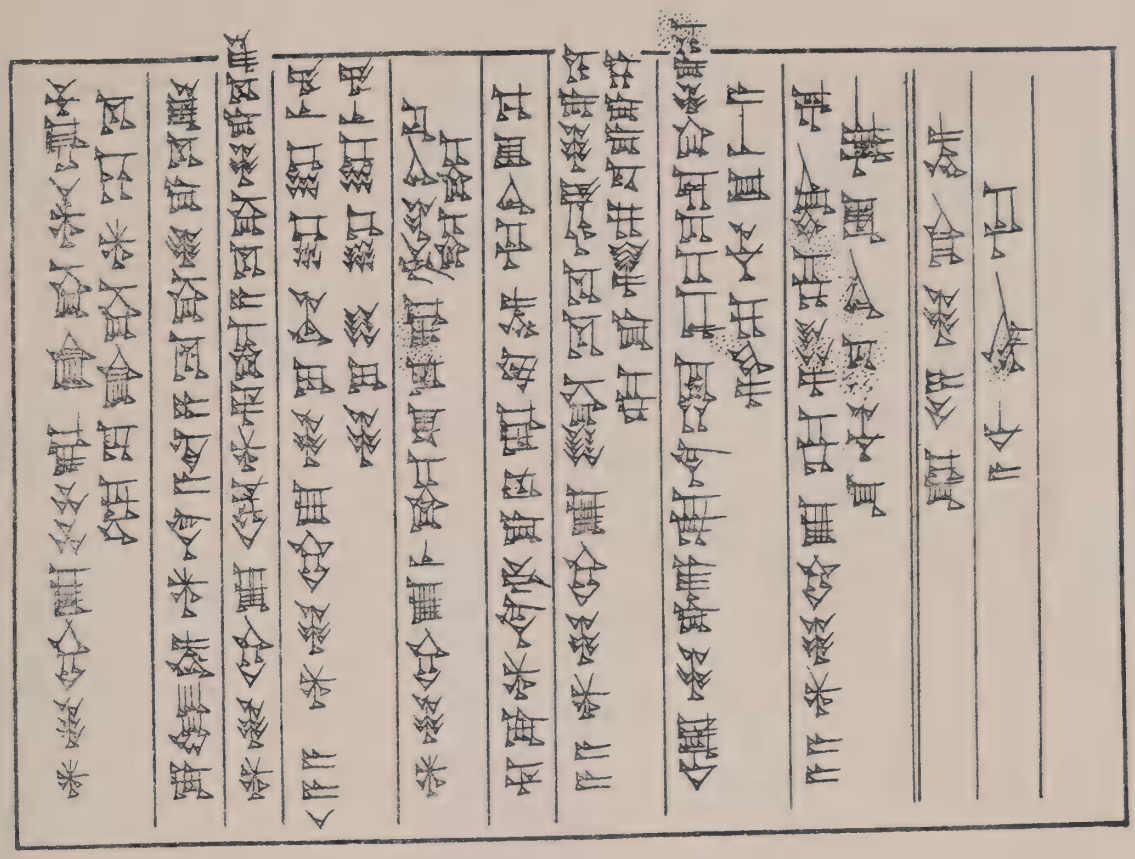


13963.



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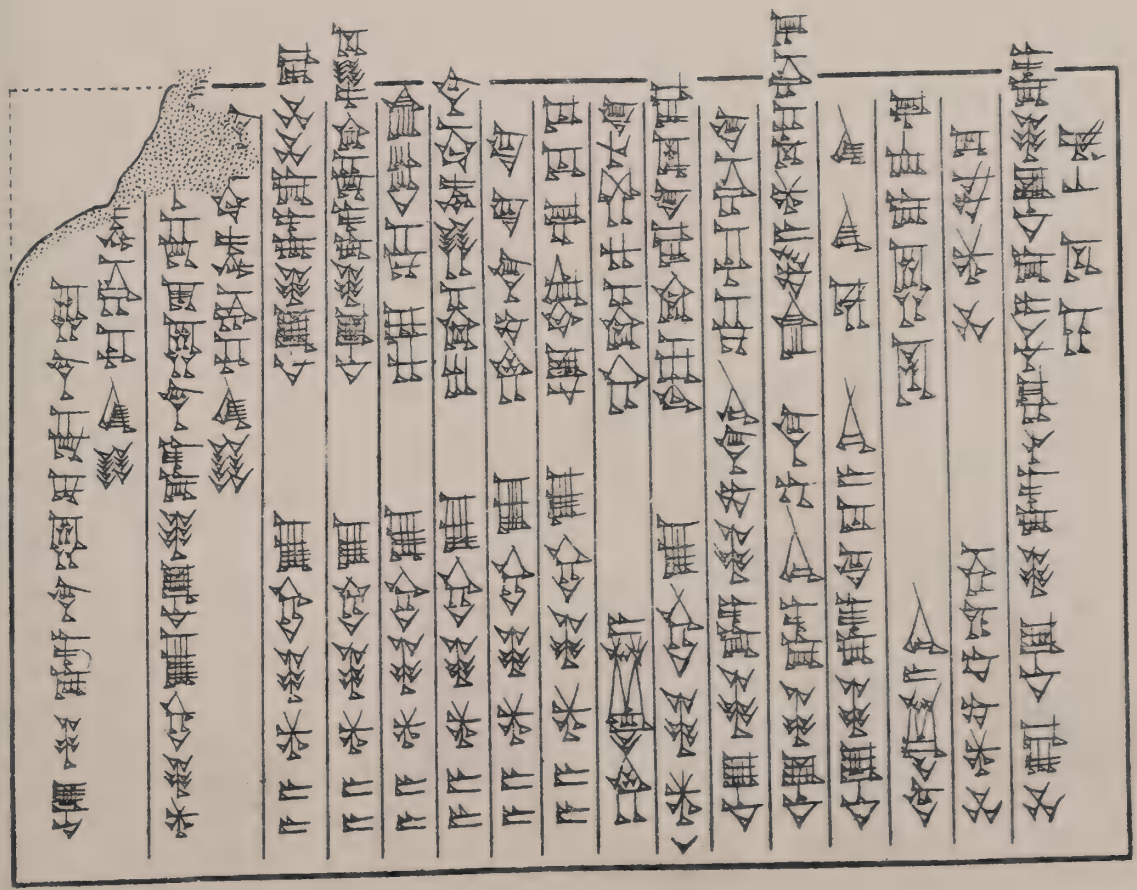
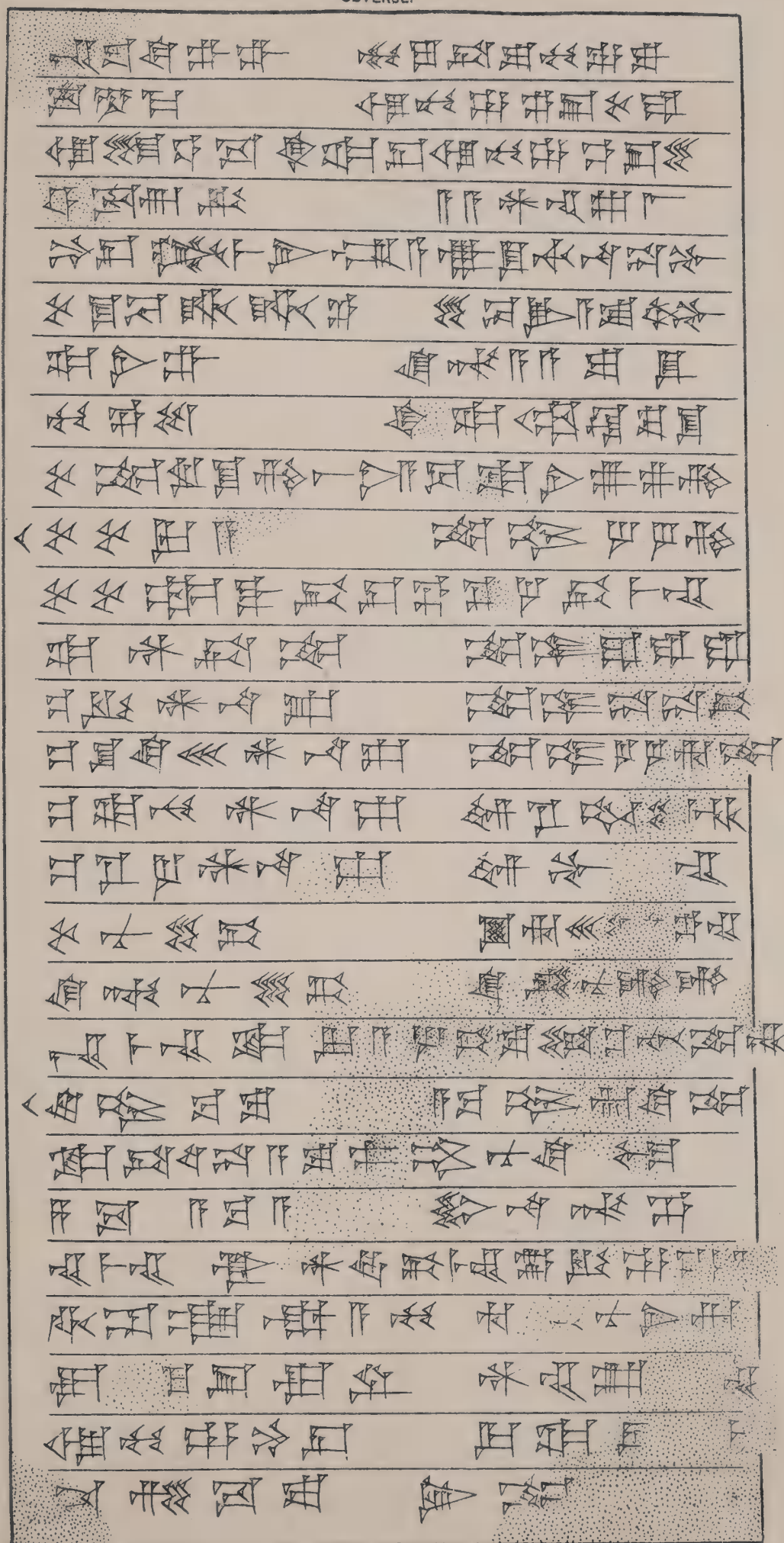


OBVERSE.

29644.

OBVERSE.



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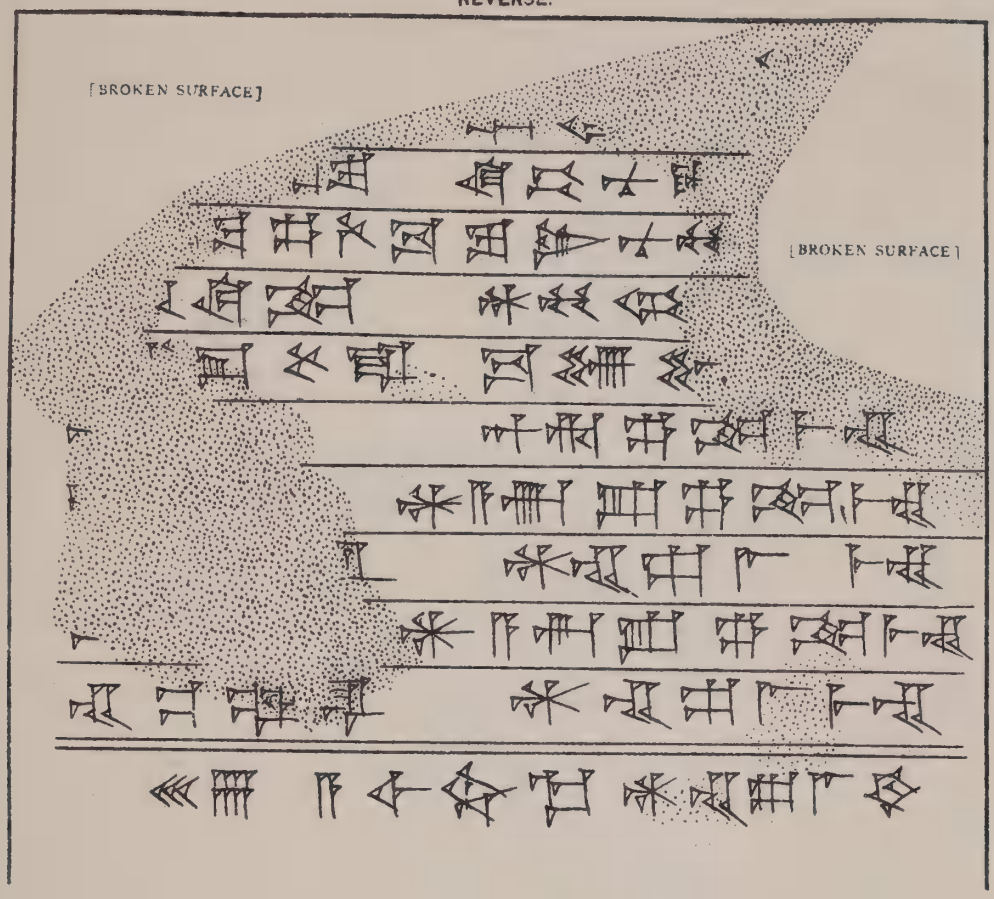

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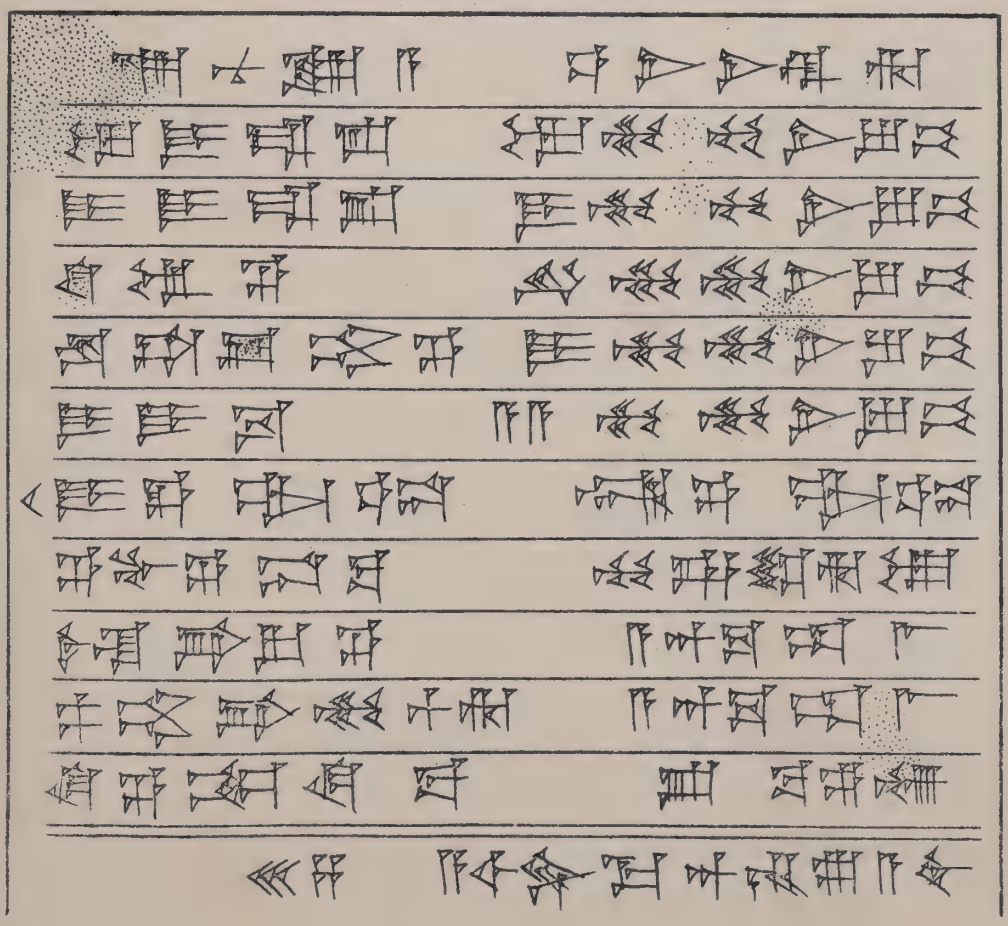

1. For the Obverse of 29623 see Plate 13.

29623.

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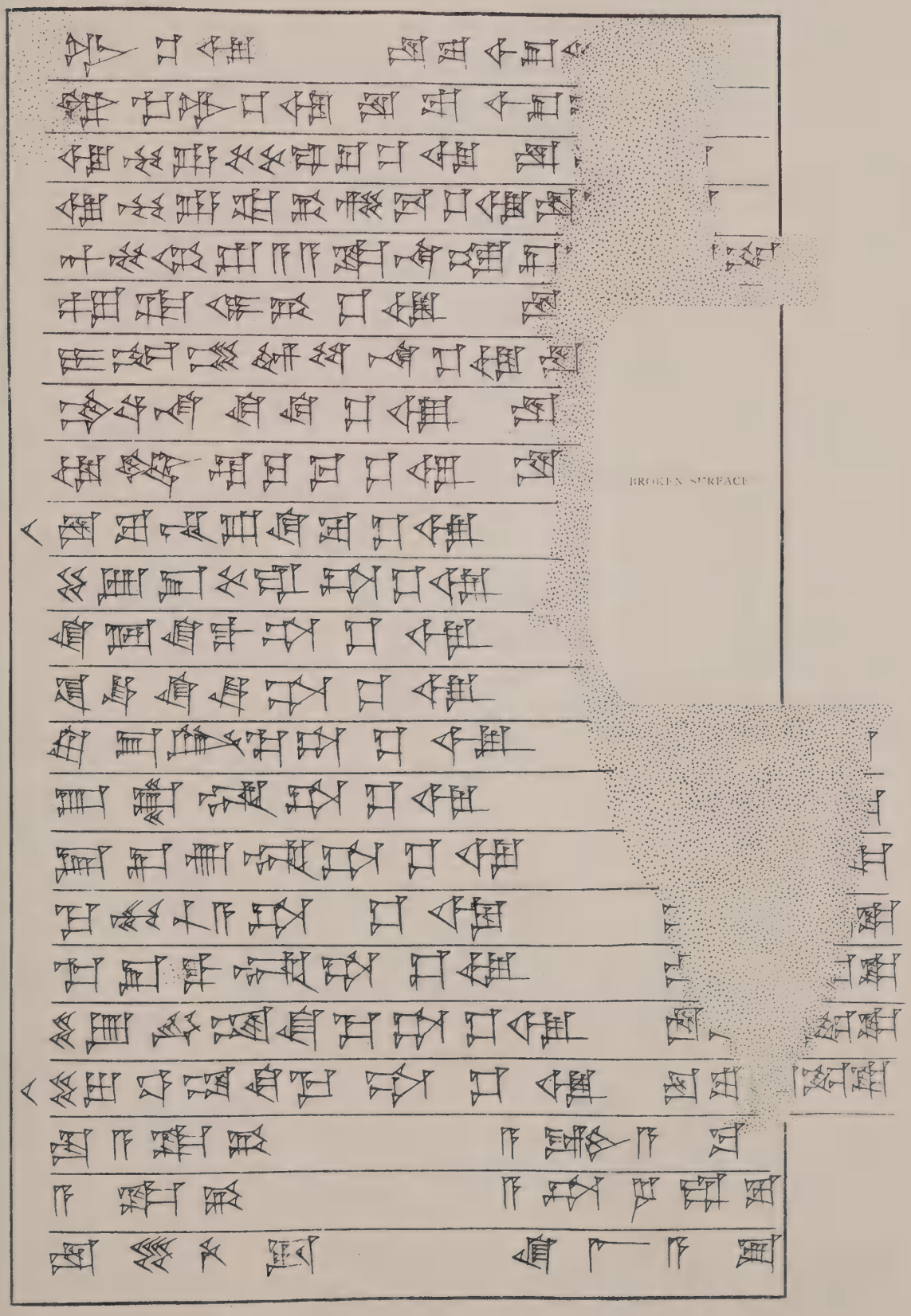

1. For the Reverse of 29623 see Plate 12.

22741.

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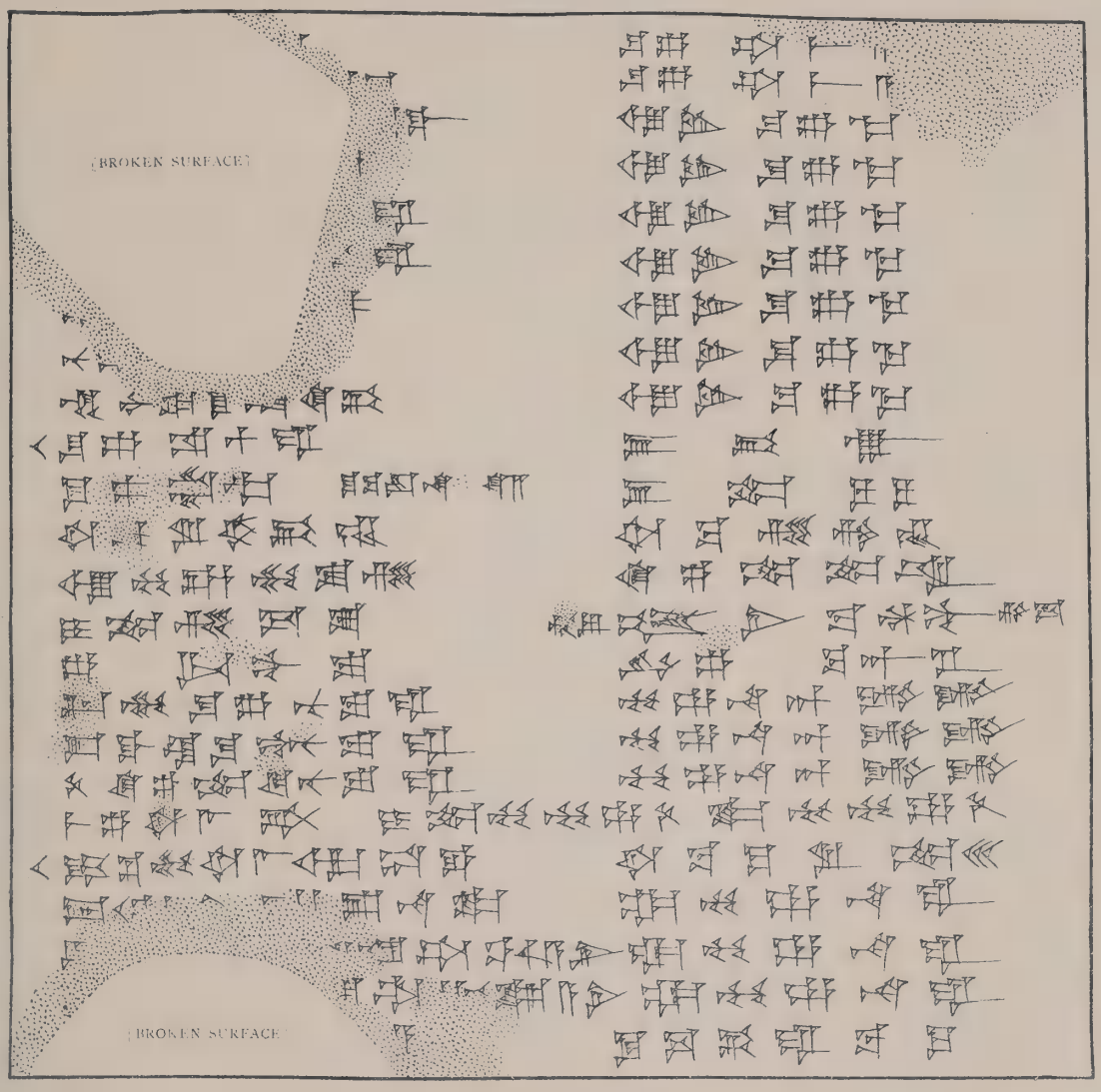

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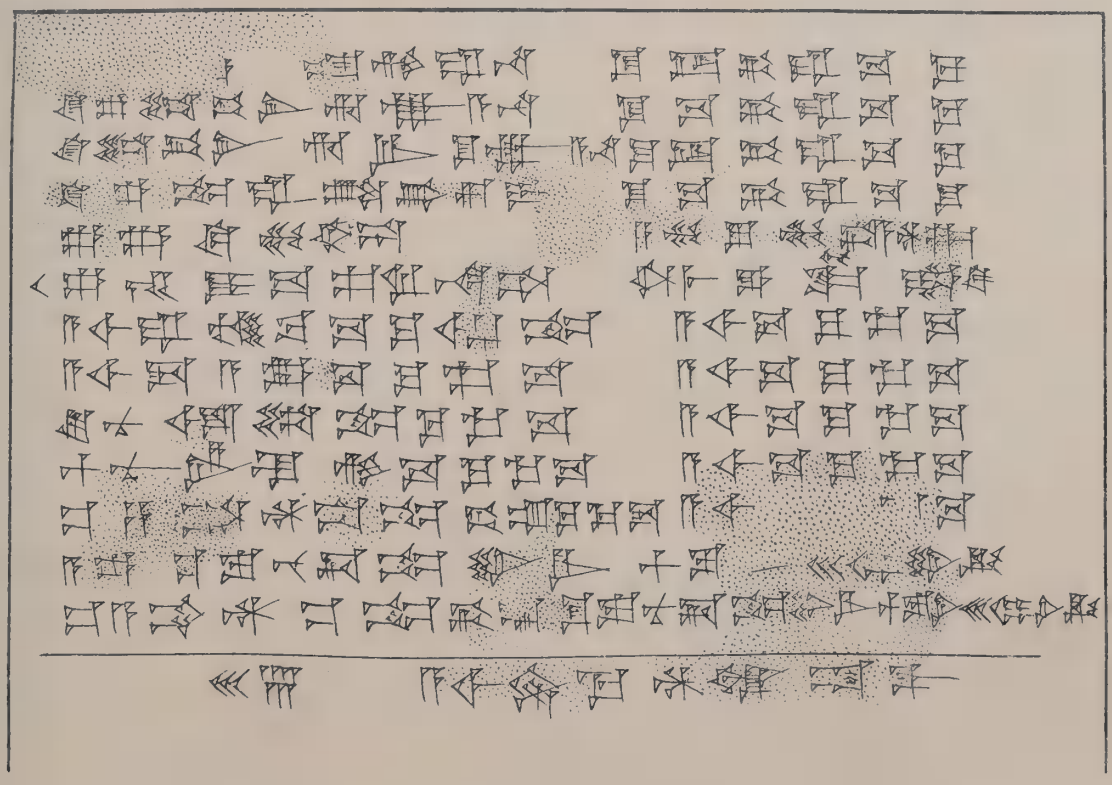

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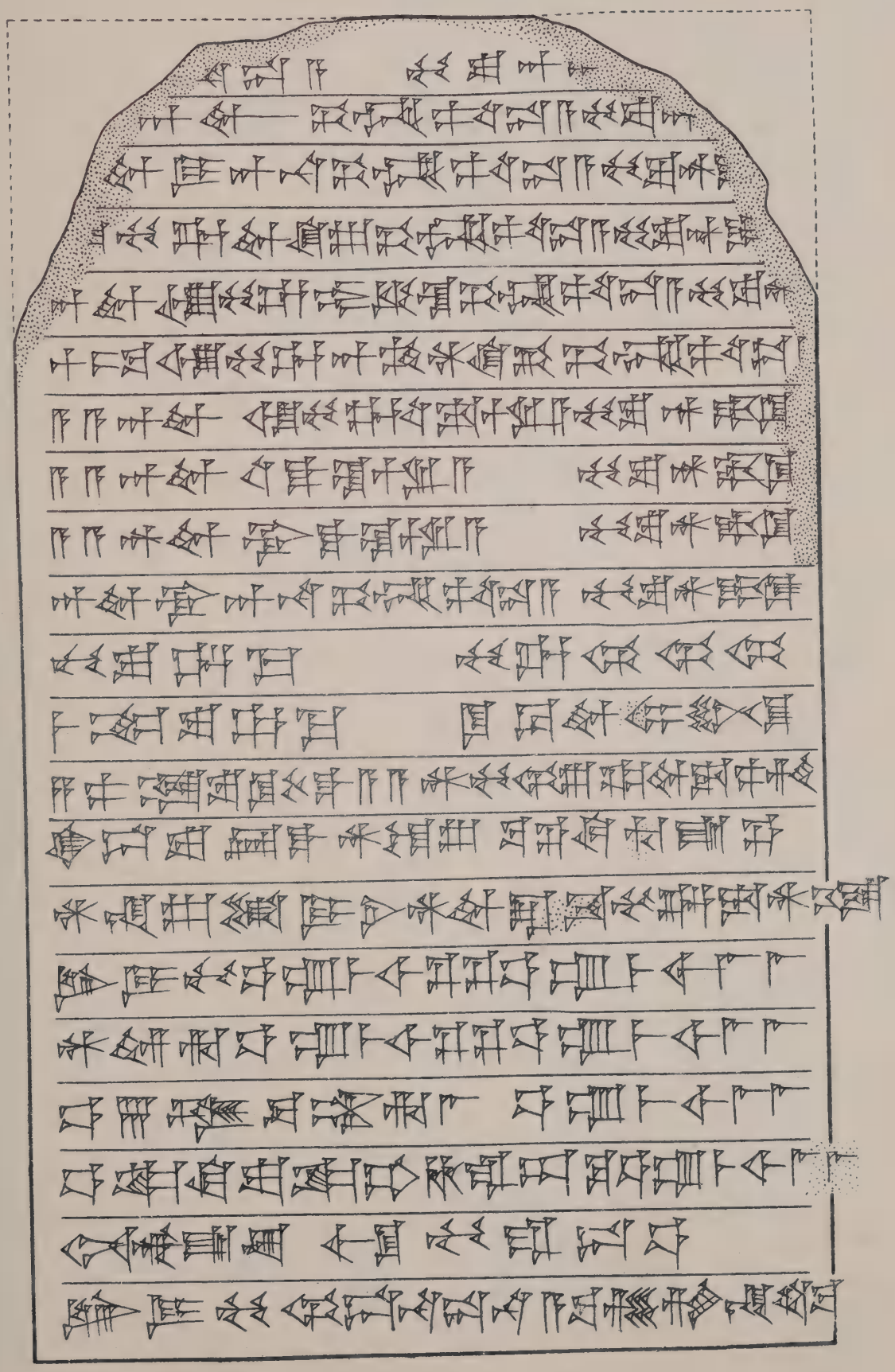

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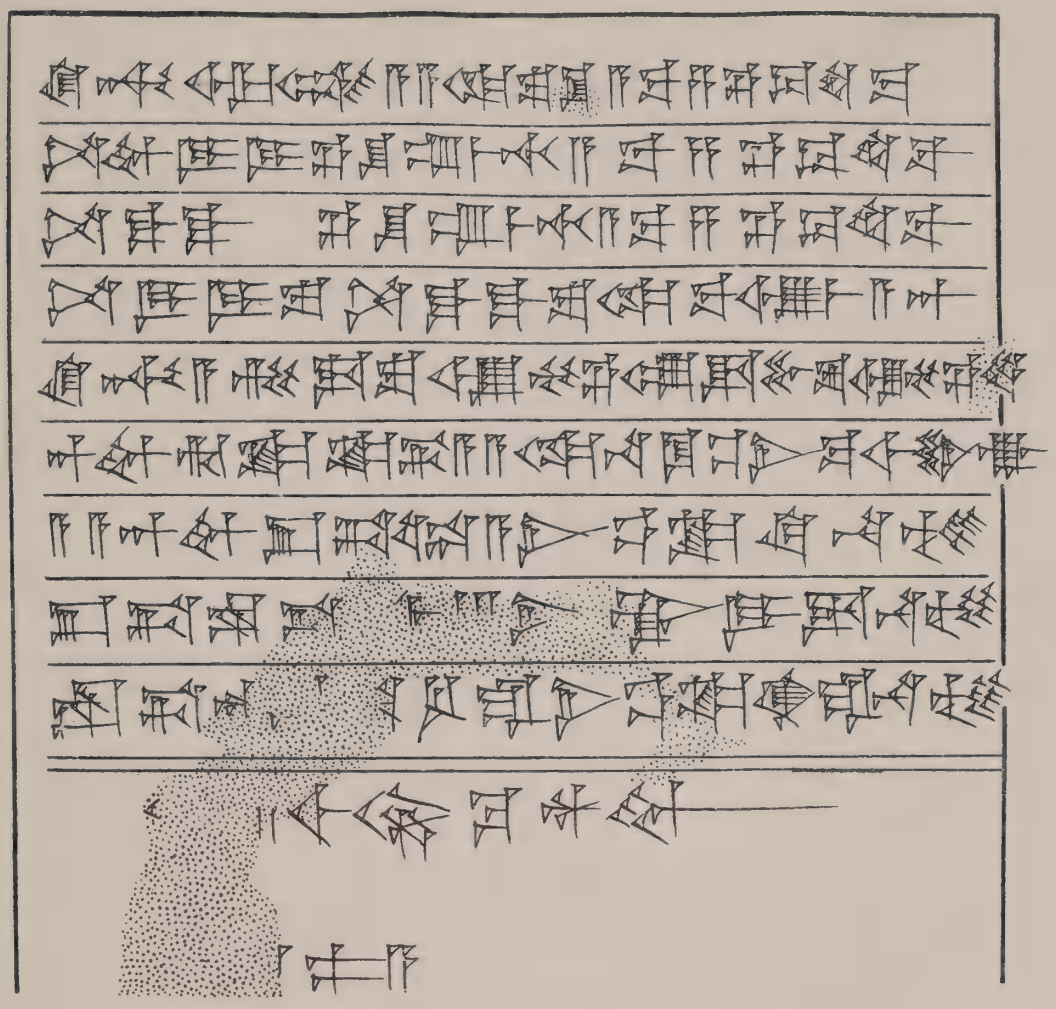

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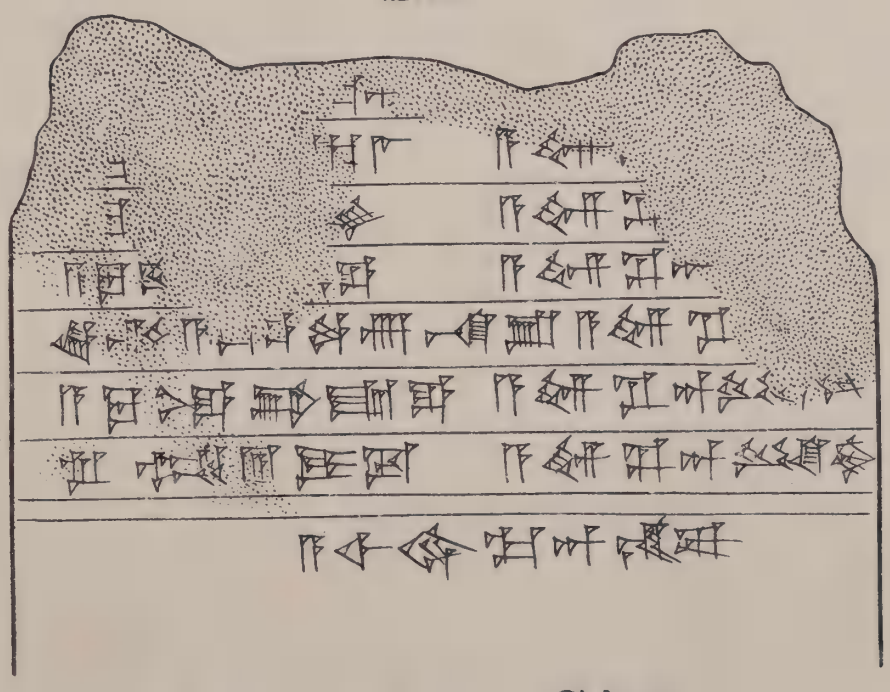

1. For the Obverse of 13930 see Plate 17.

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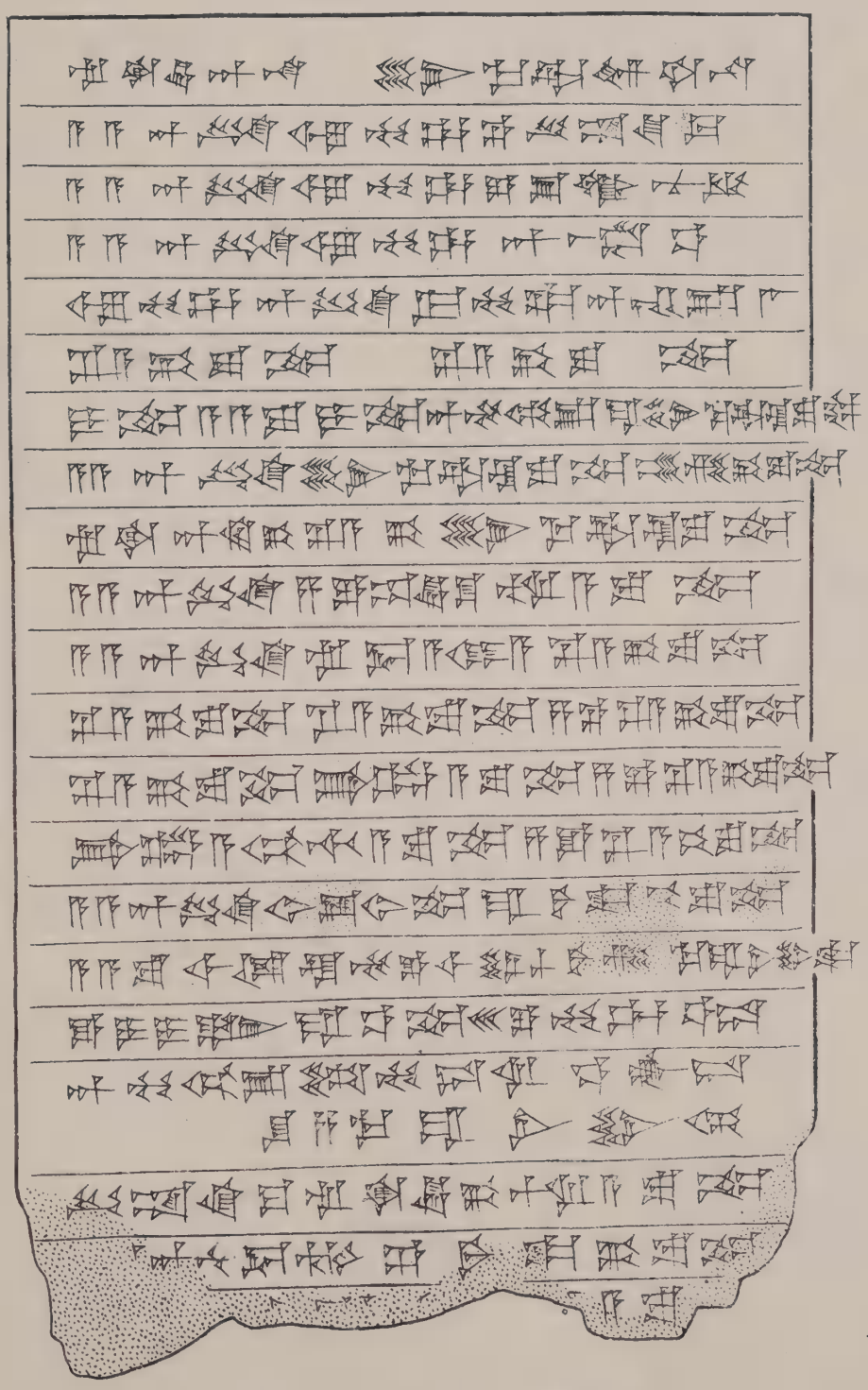

1. For the Reverse of 13930 see Plate 16.

15821.

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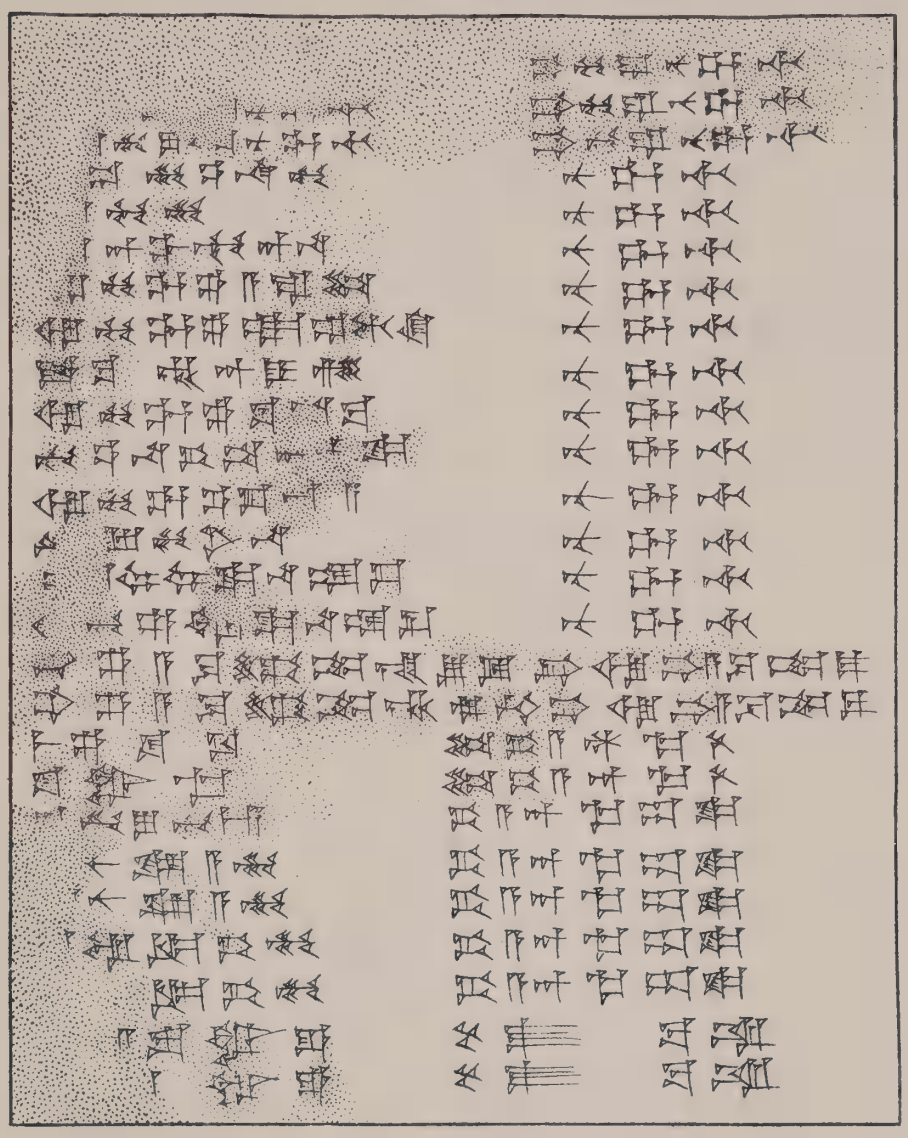

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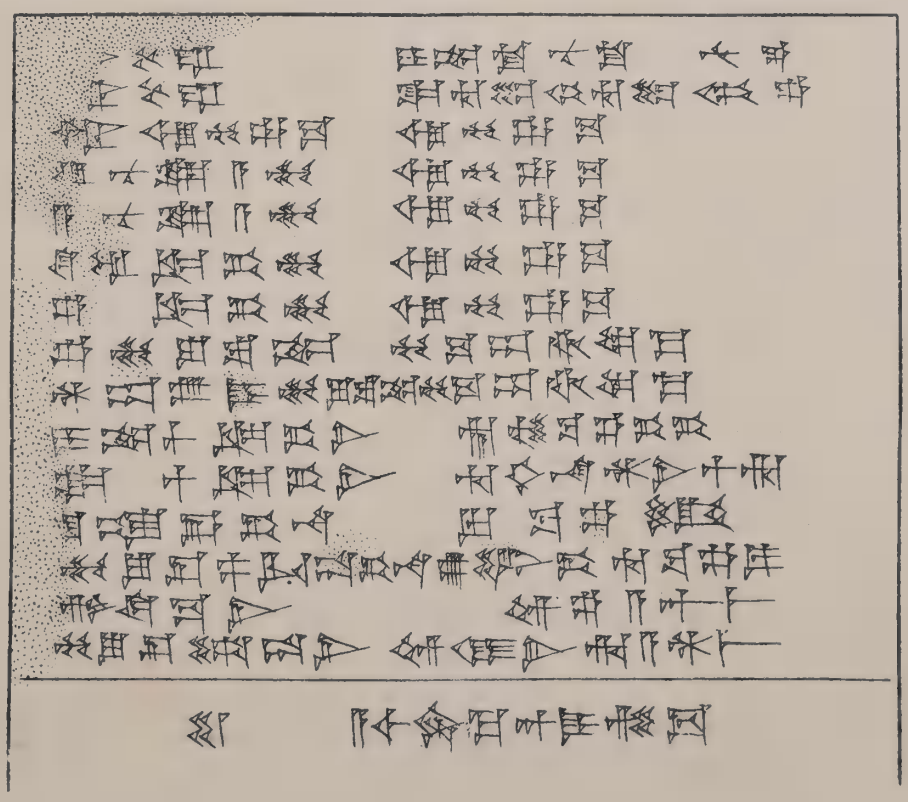

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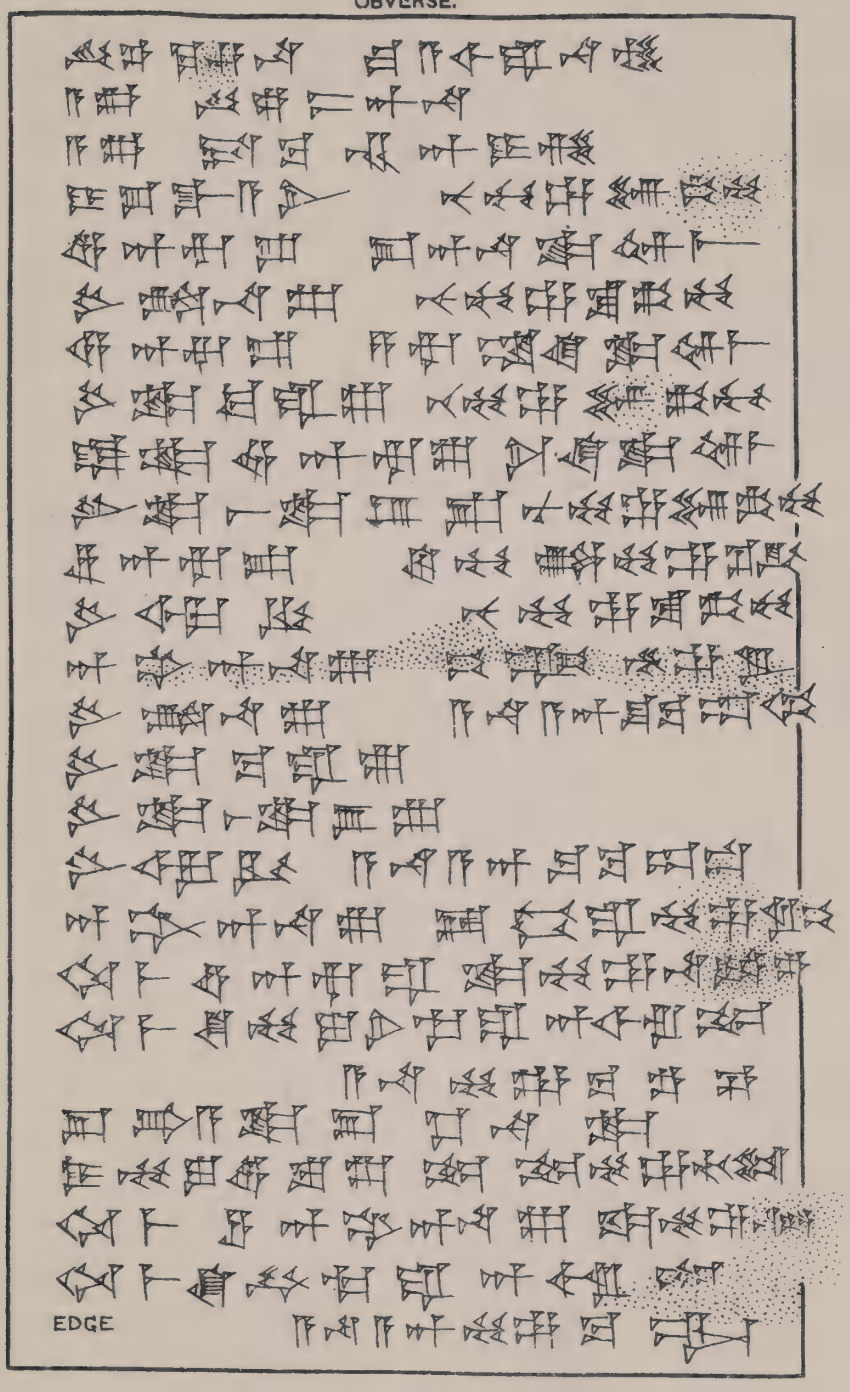

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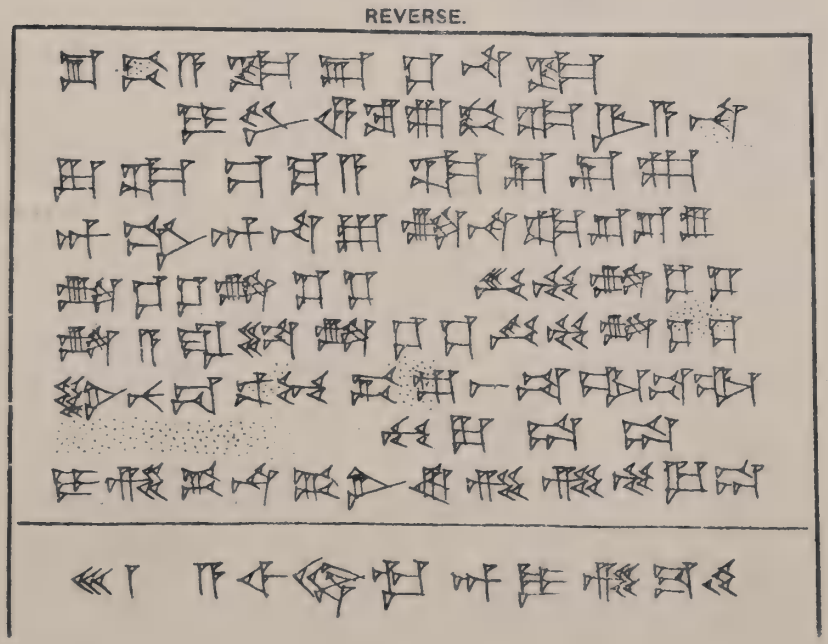

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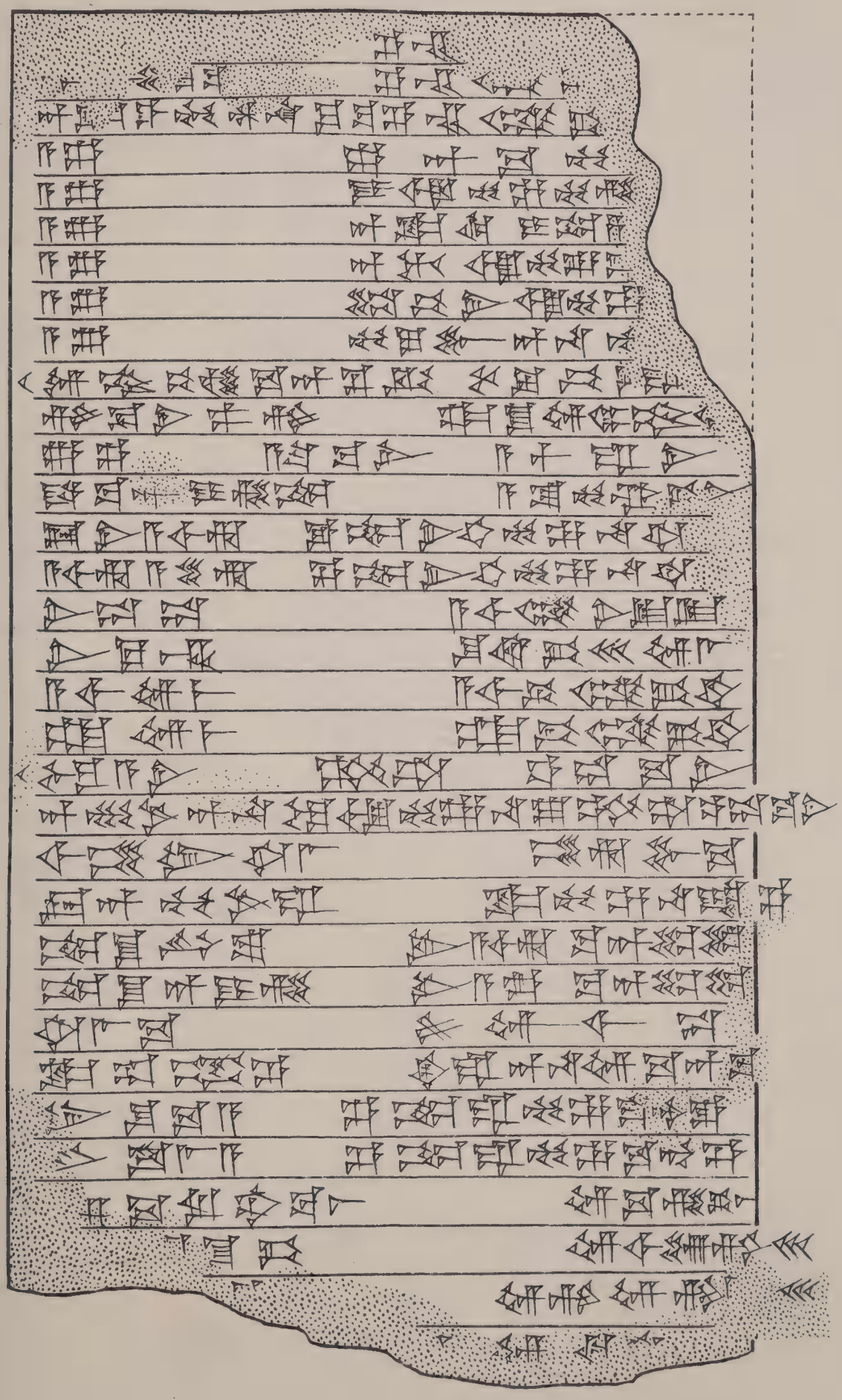

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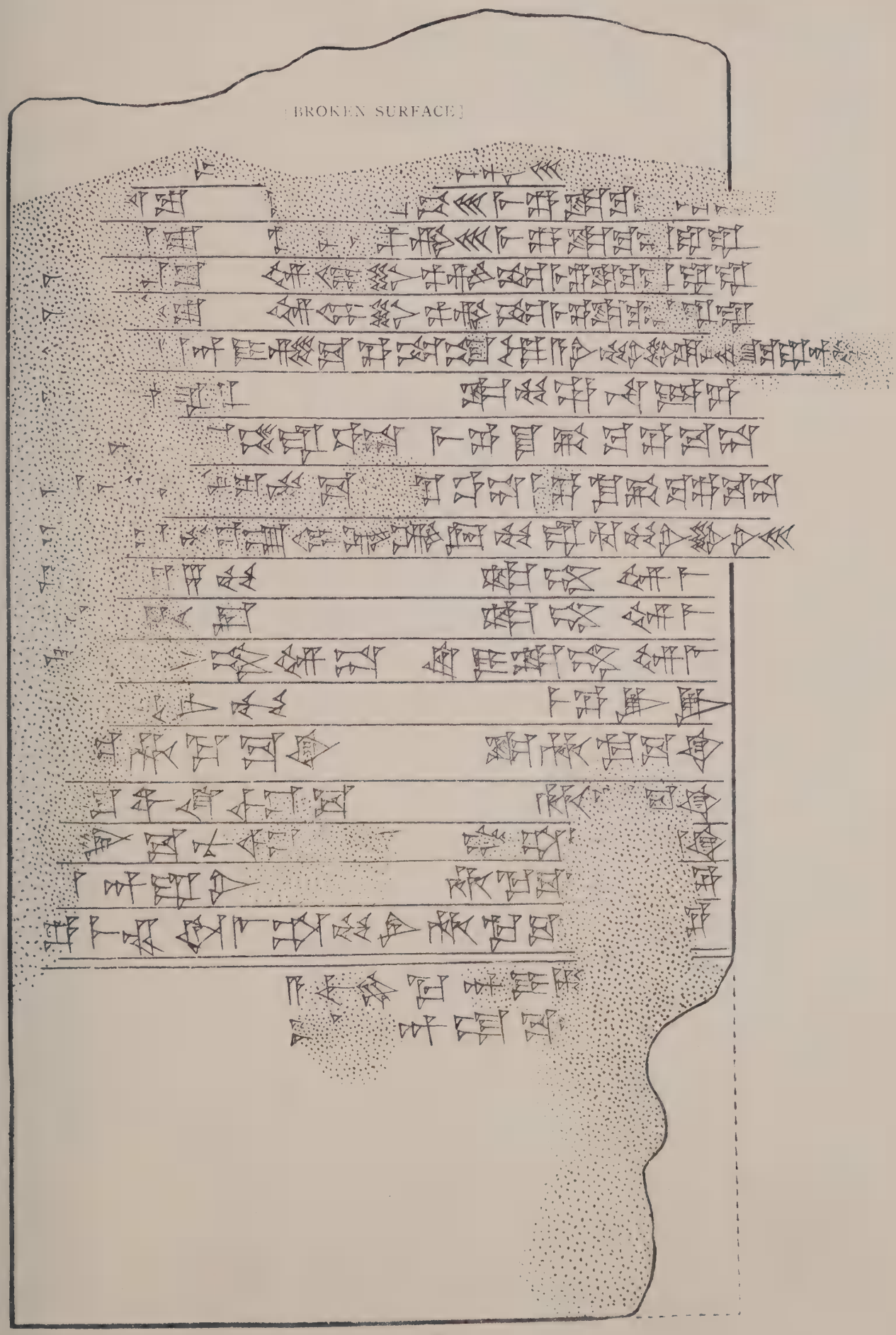

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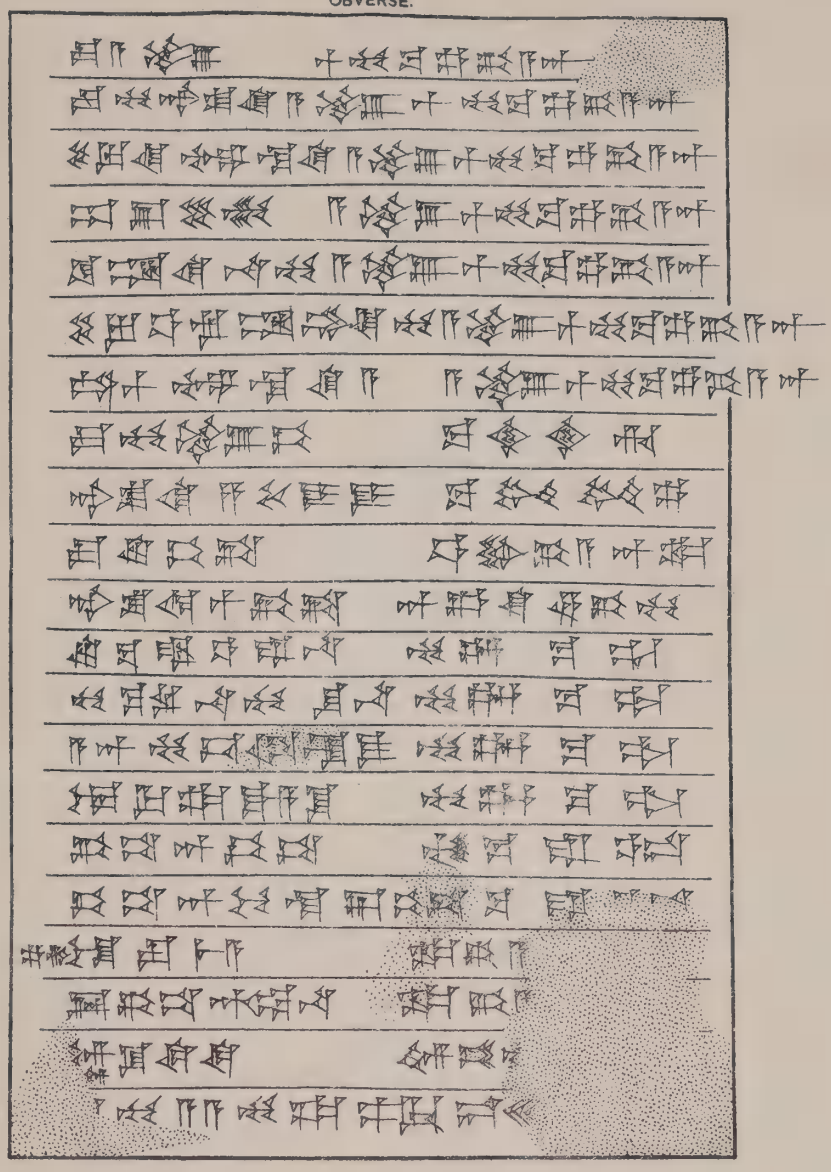

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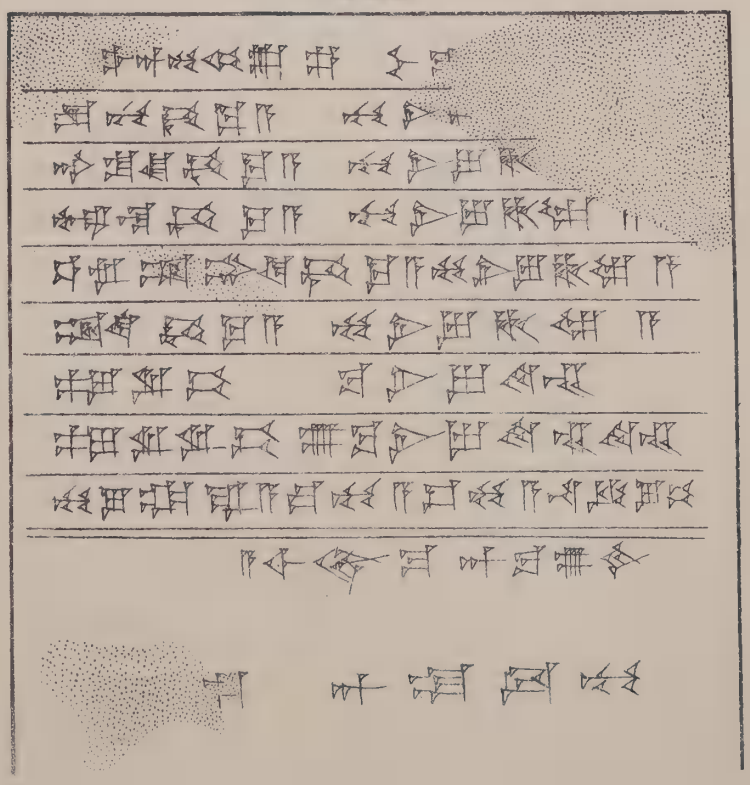

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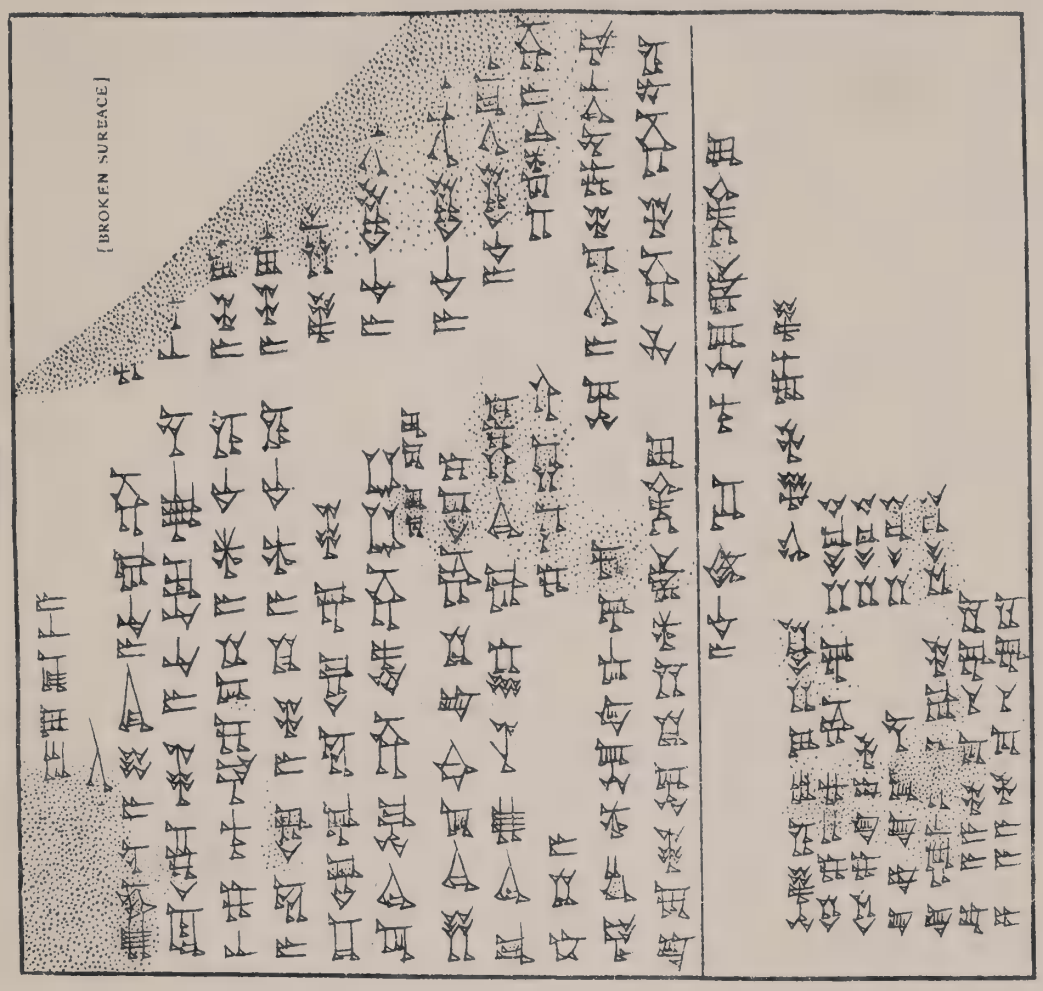

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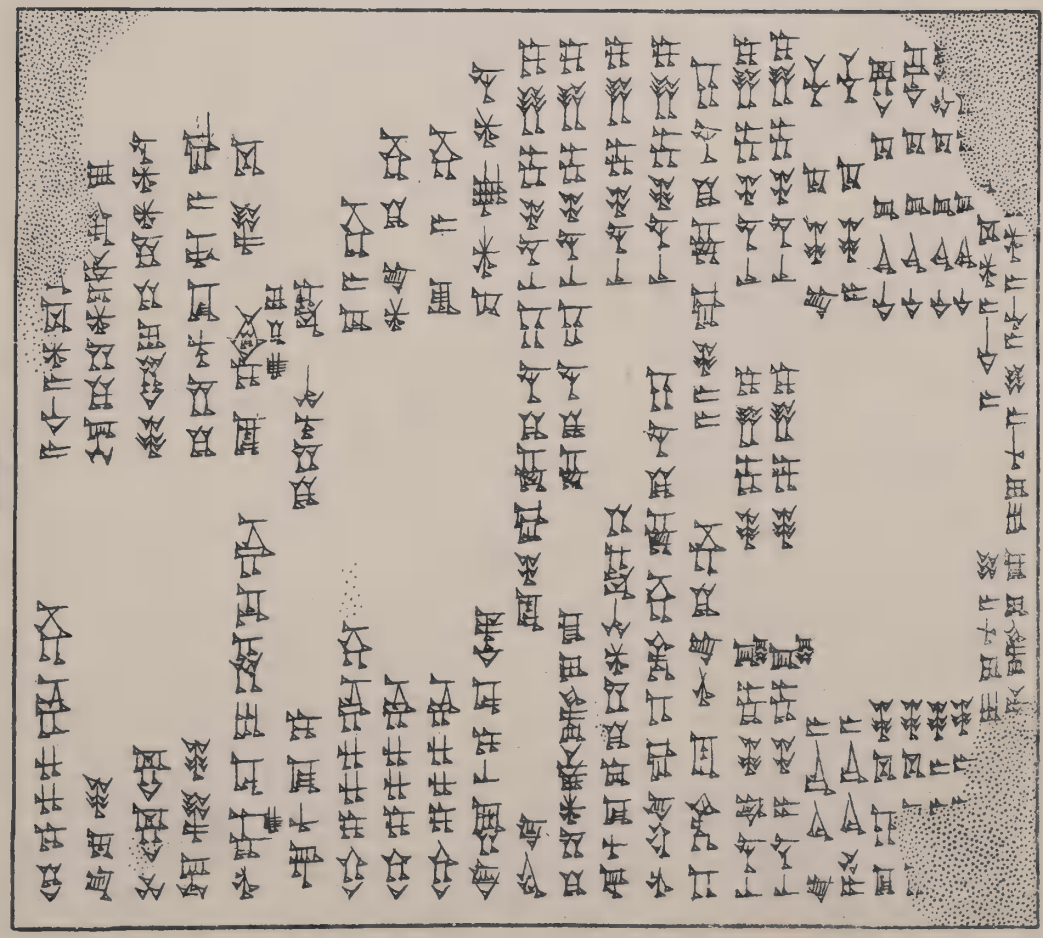

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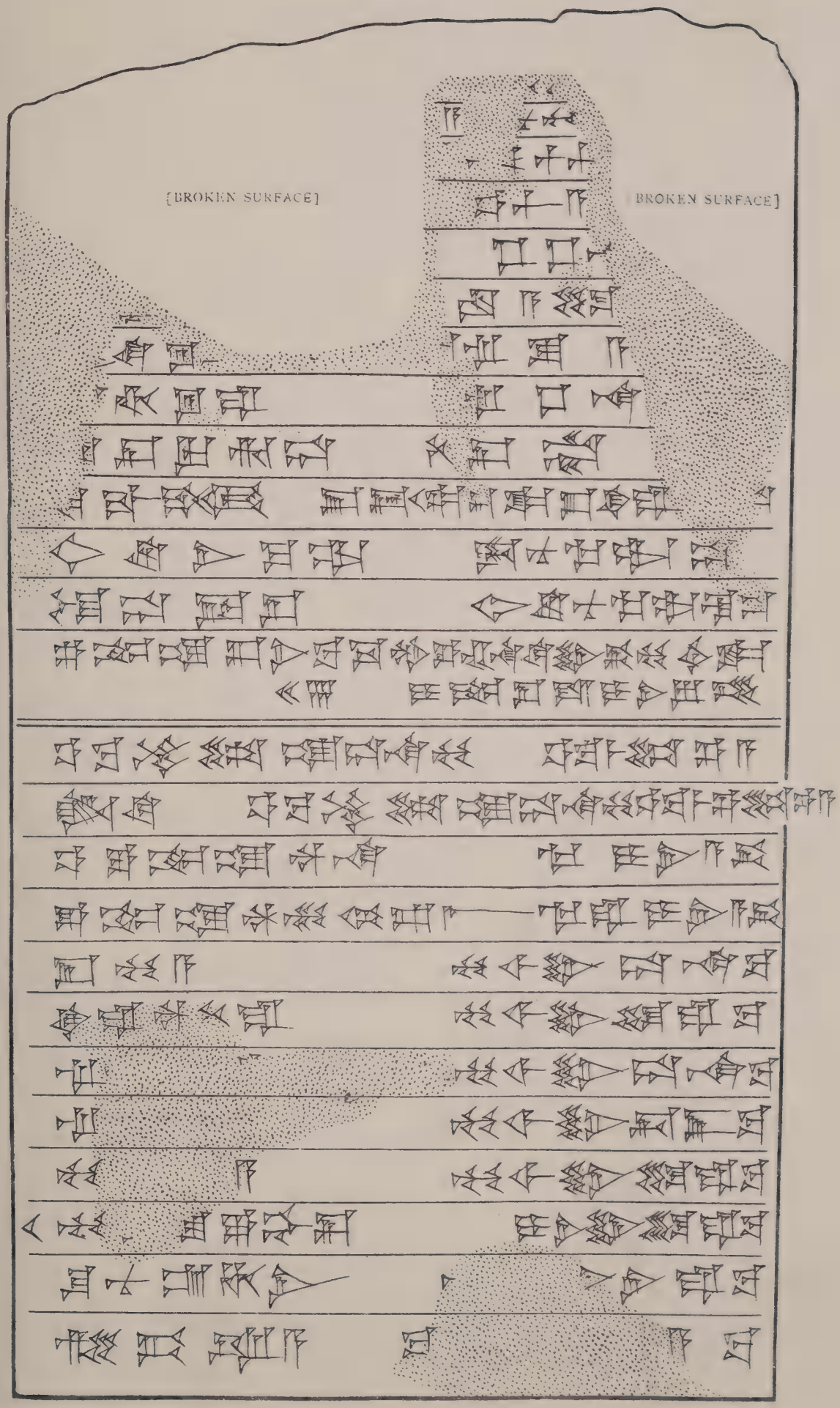

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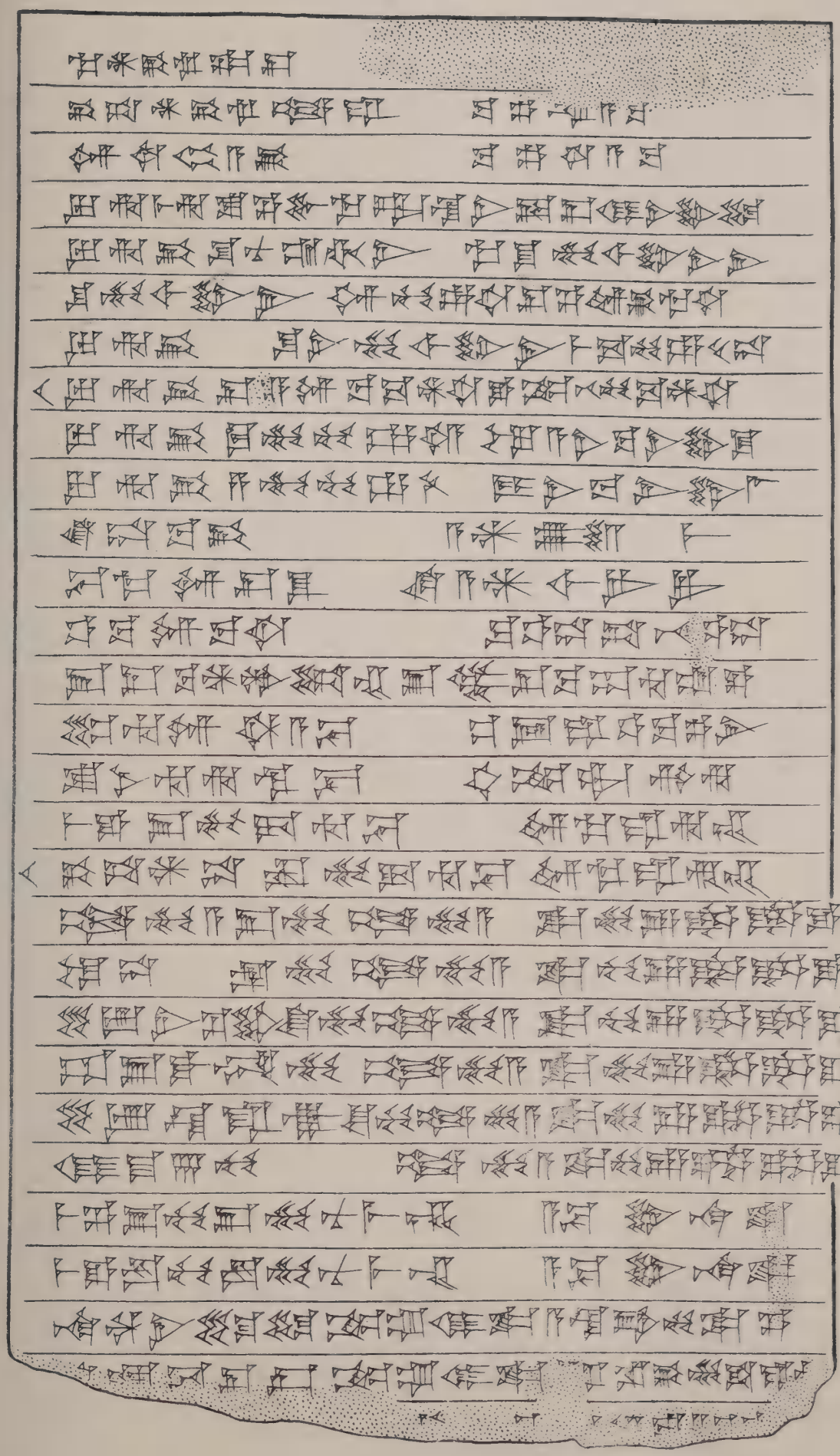

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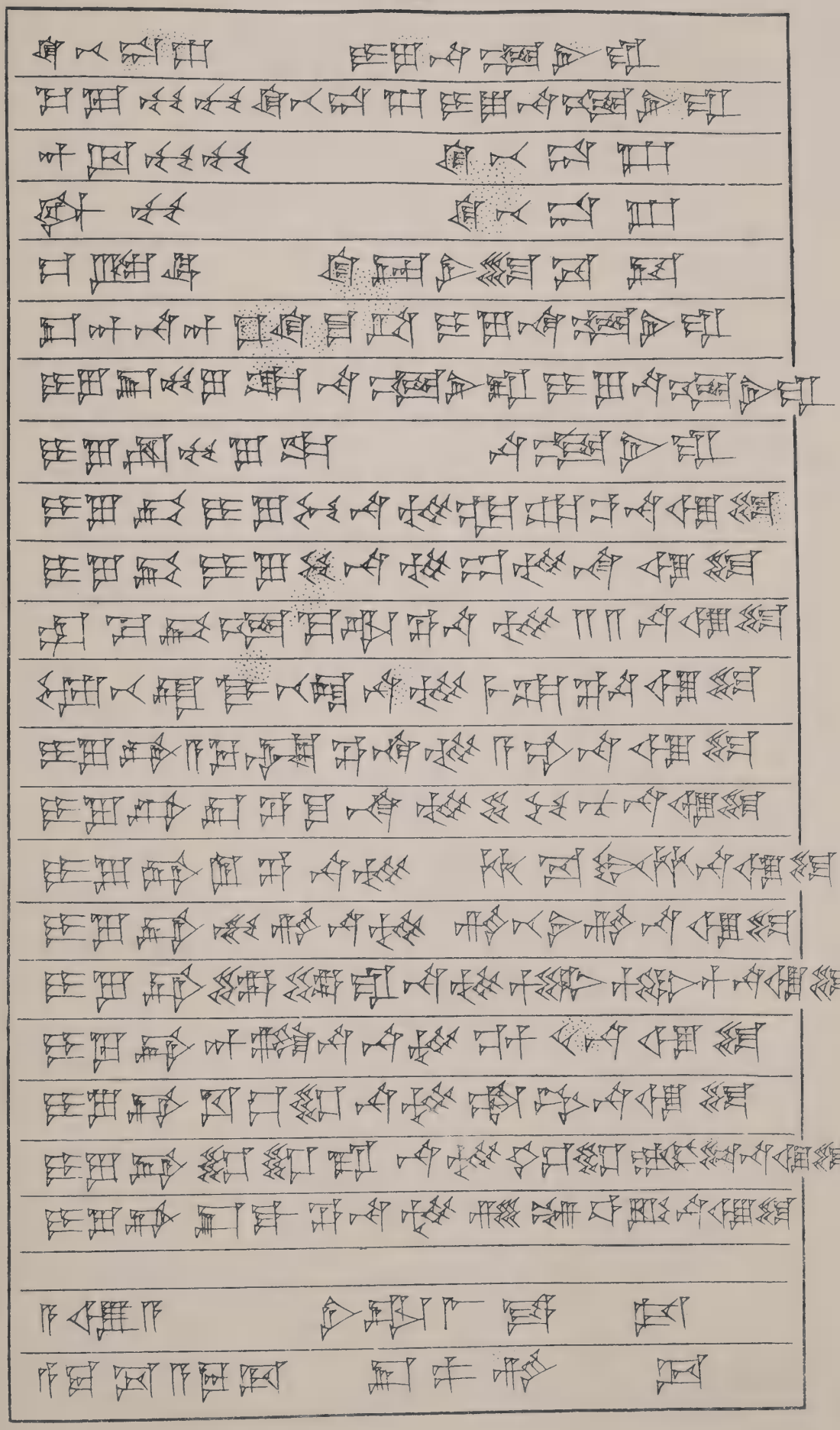

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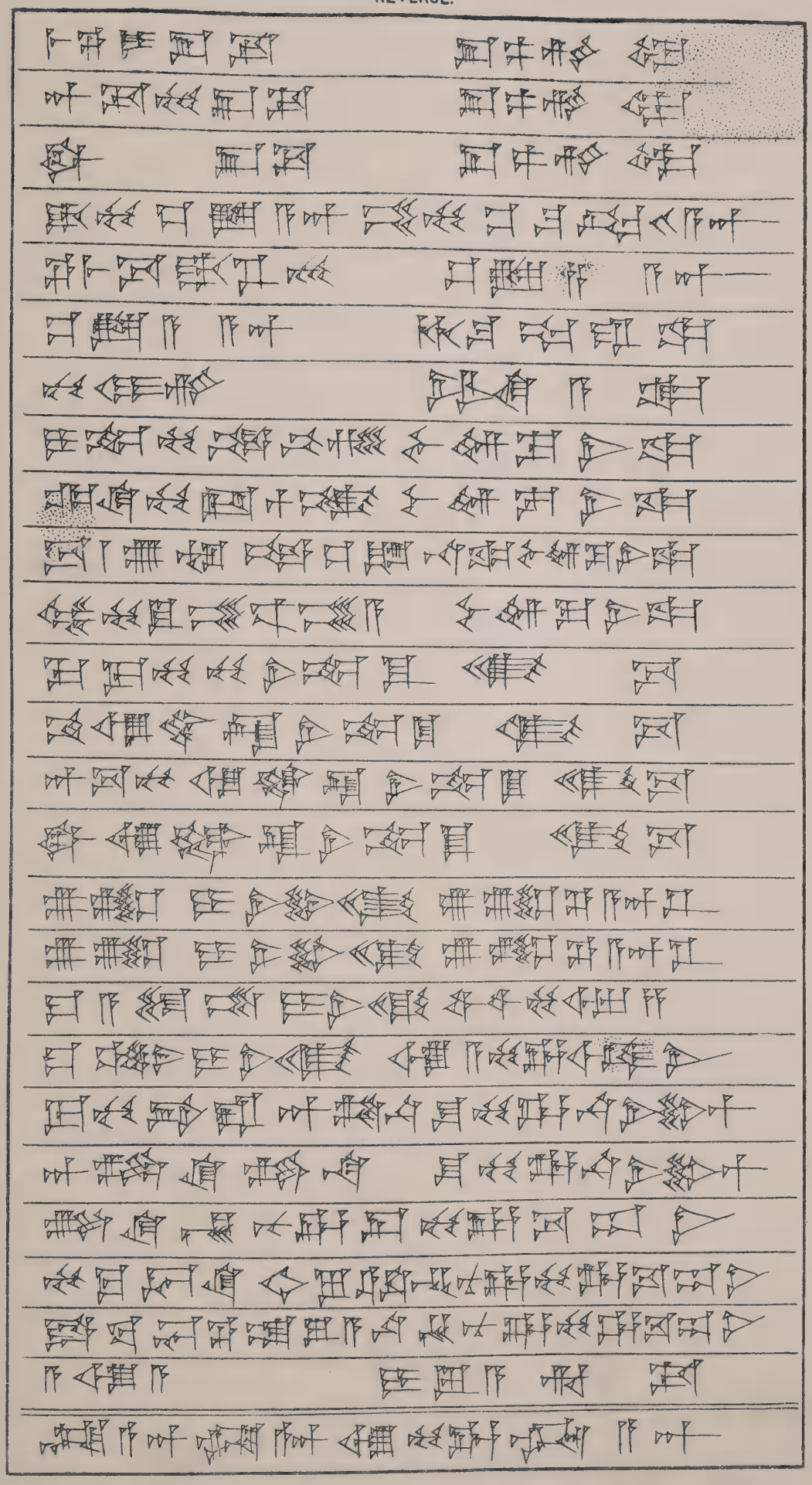
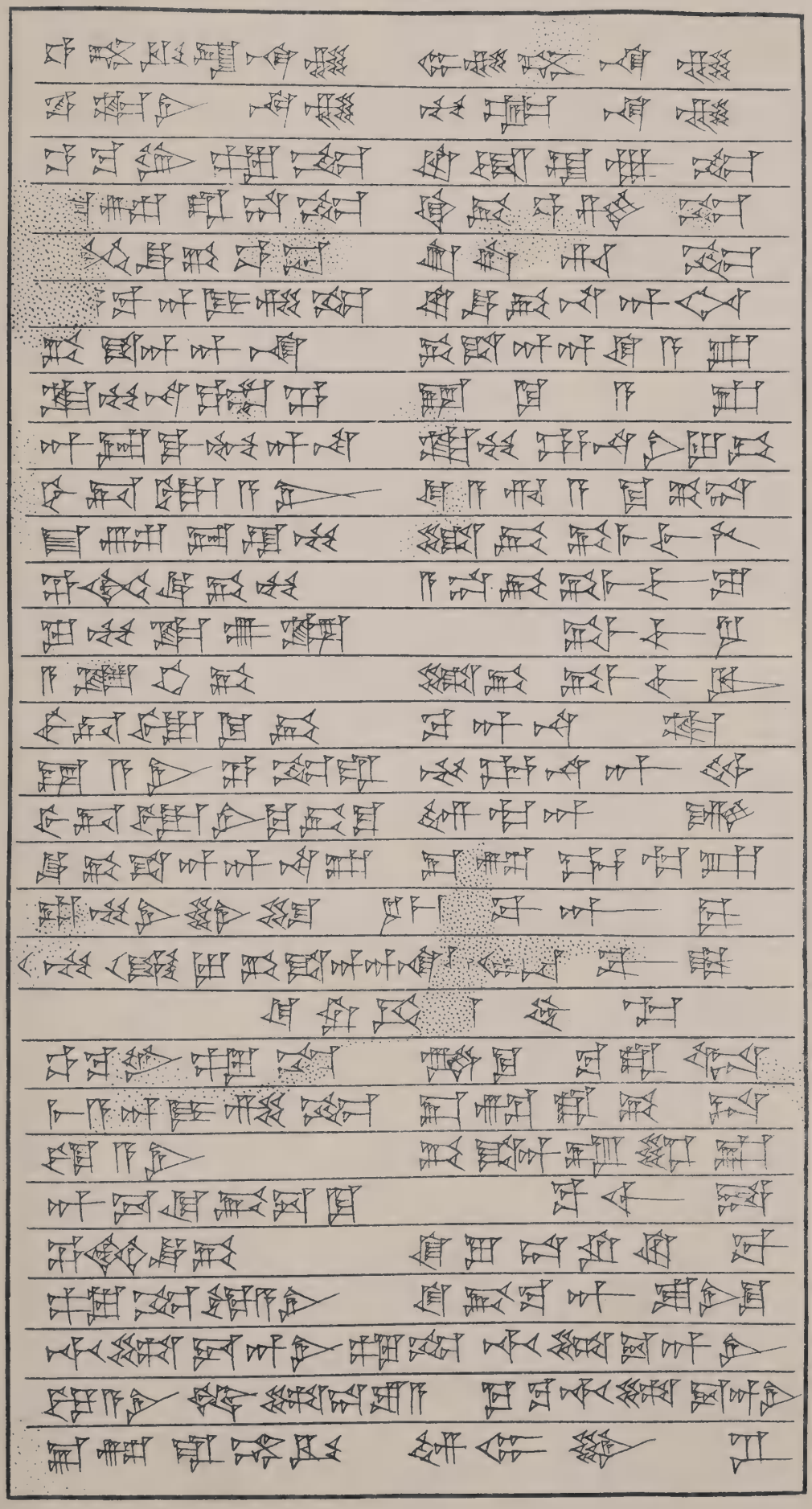


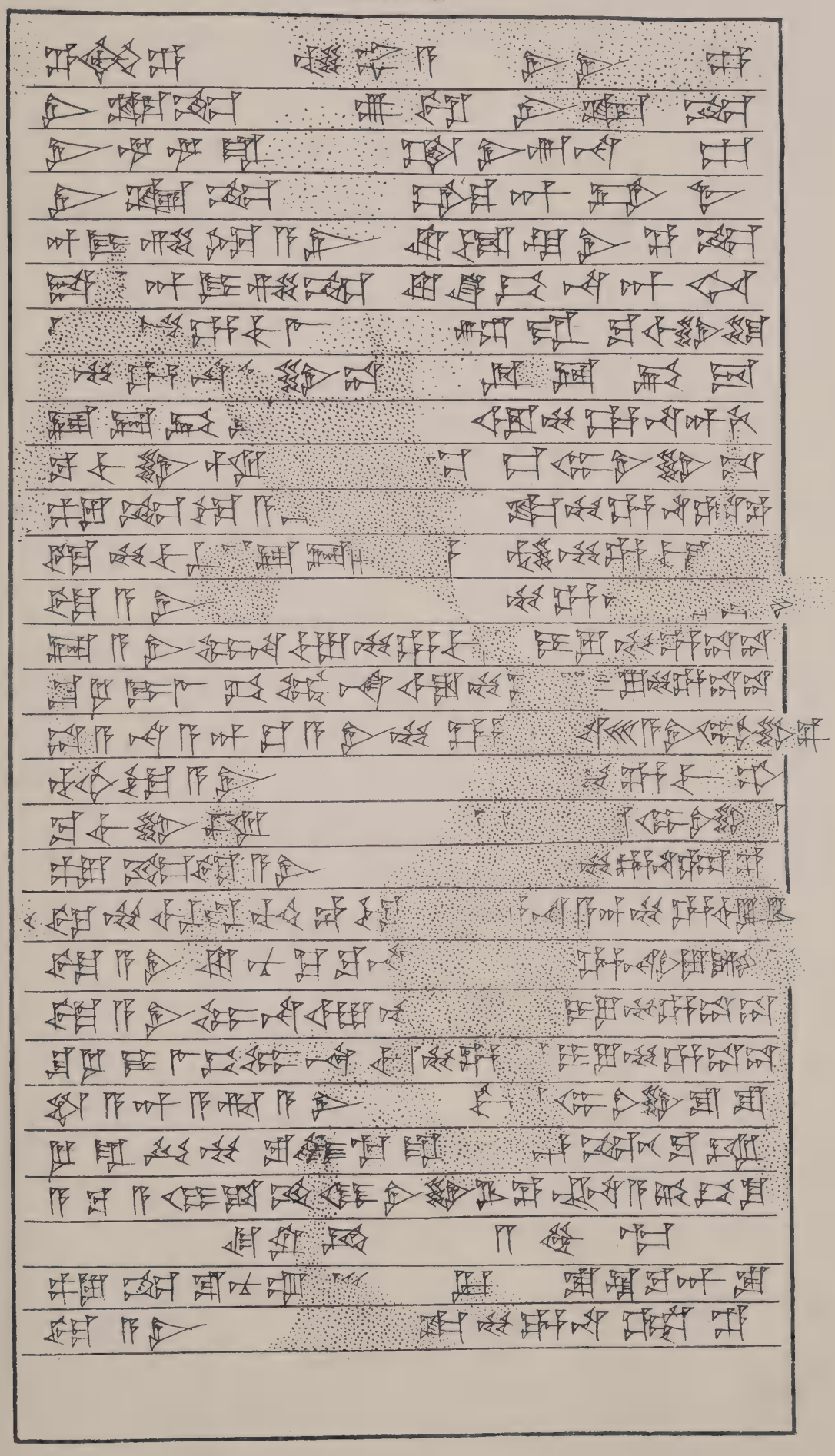
23702.

OBVERSE.



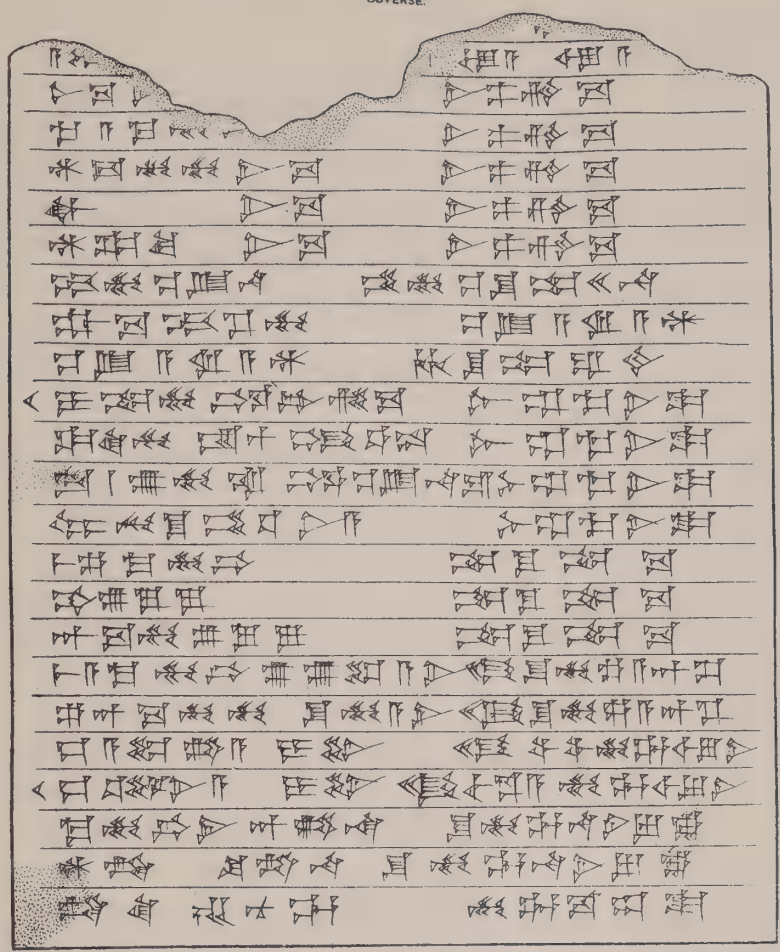
23702.

REVERSE.

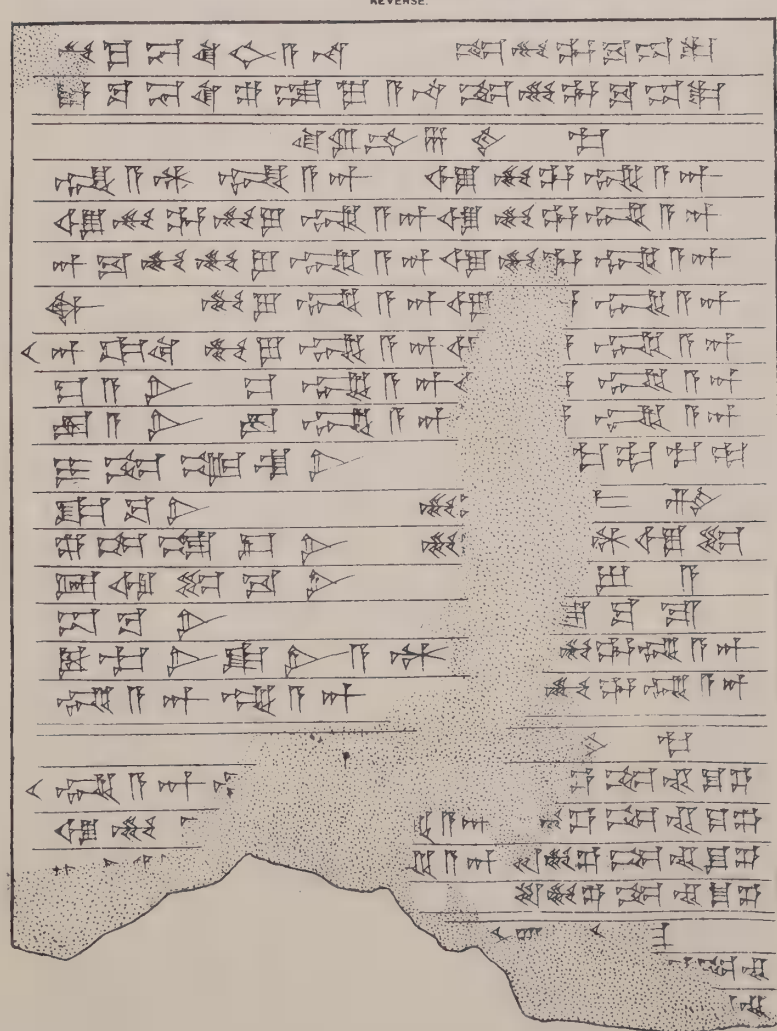


88384.

OBVERSE.

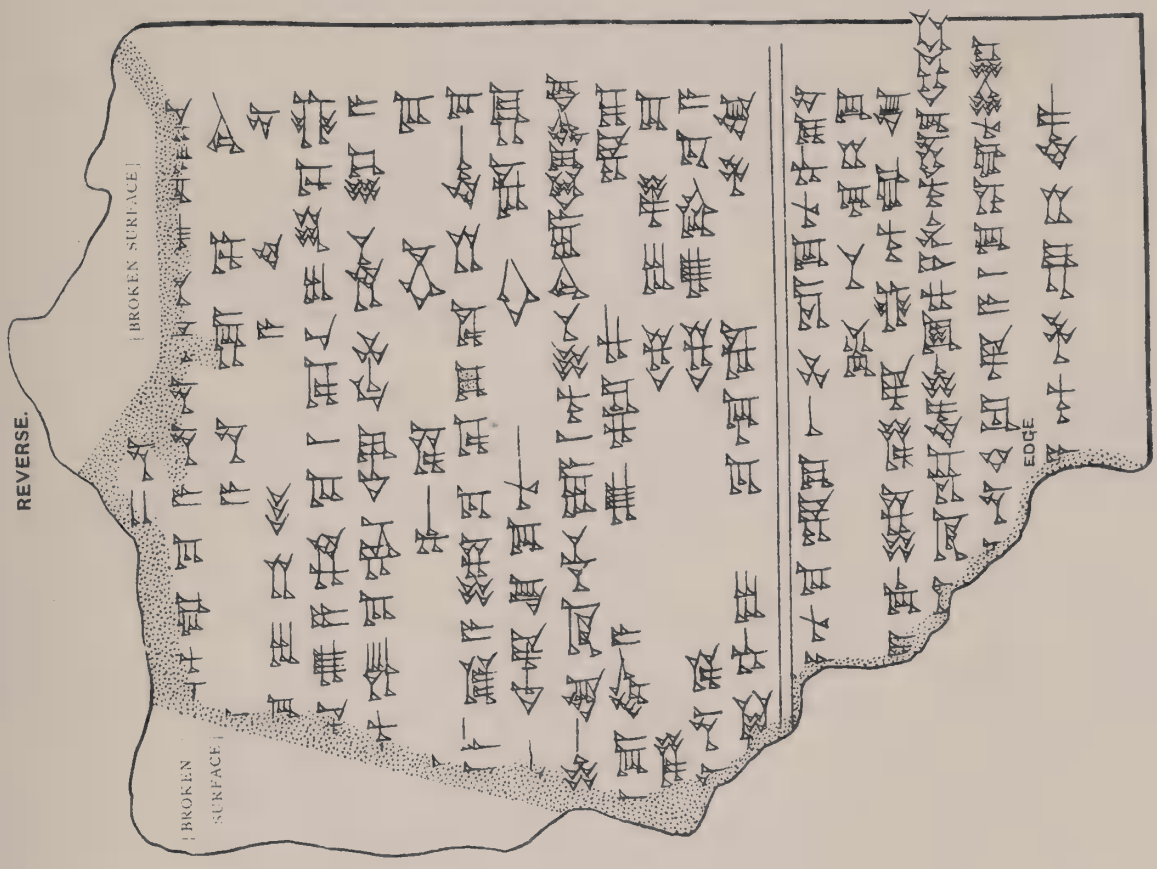


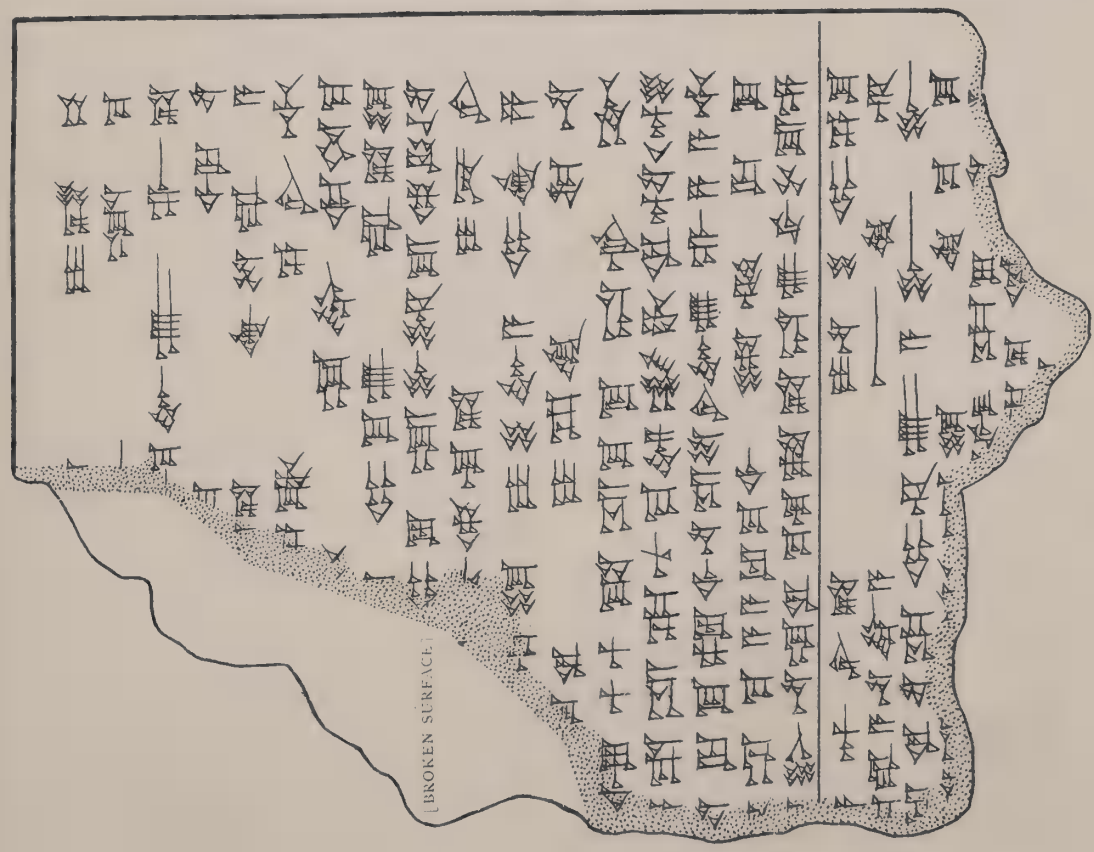
REVERSE.



[FABLE OF THE FOX.]

55470.

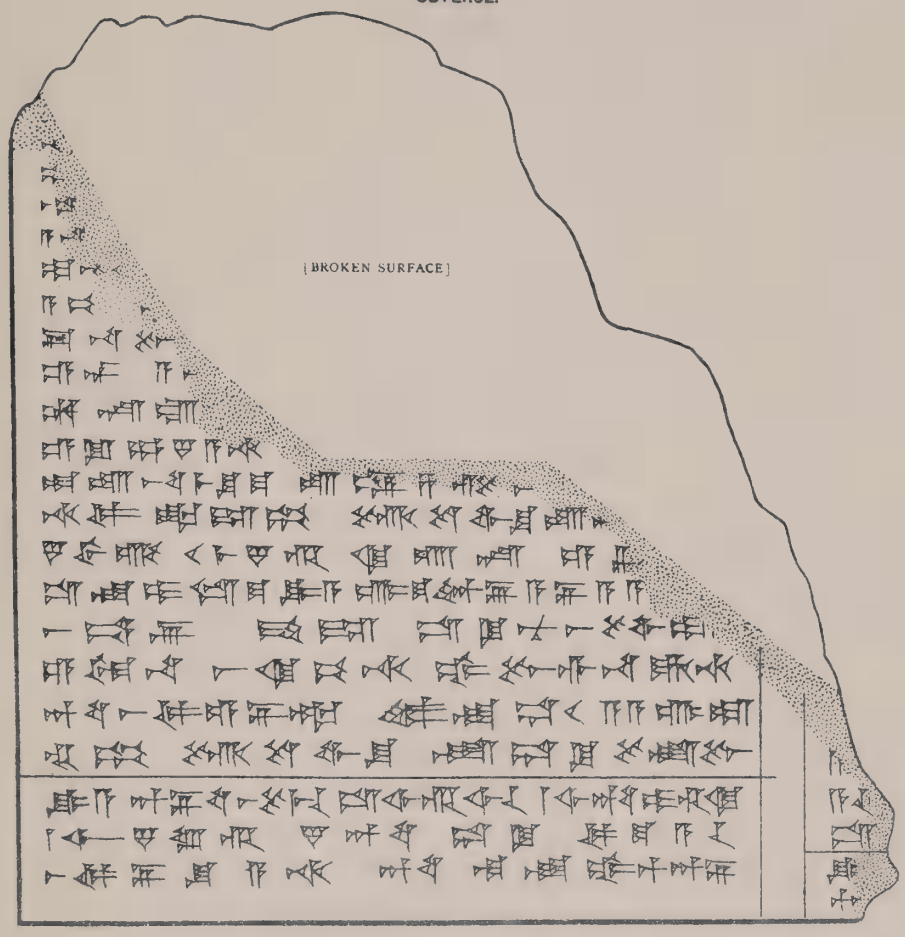




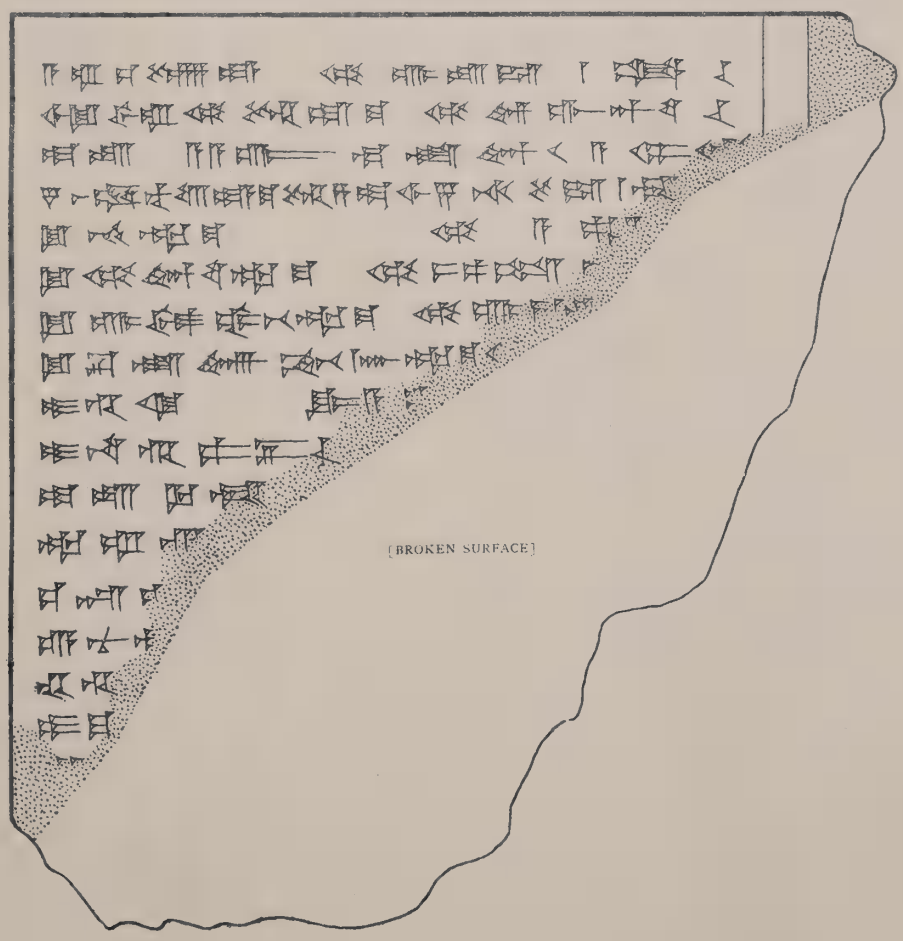
[FABLE OF THE FOX.]

K. 3641.

OBVERSE.

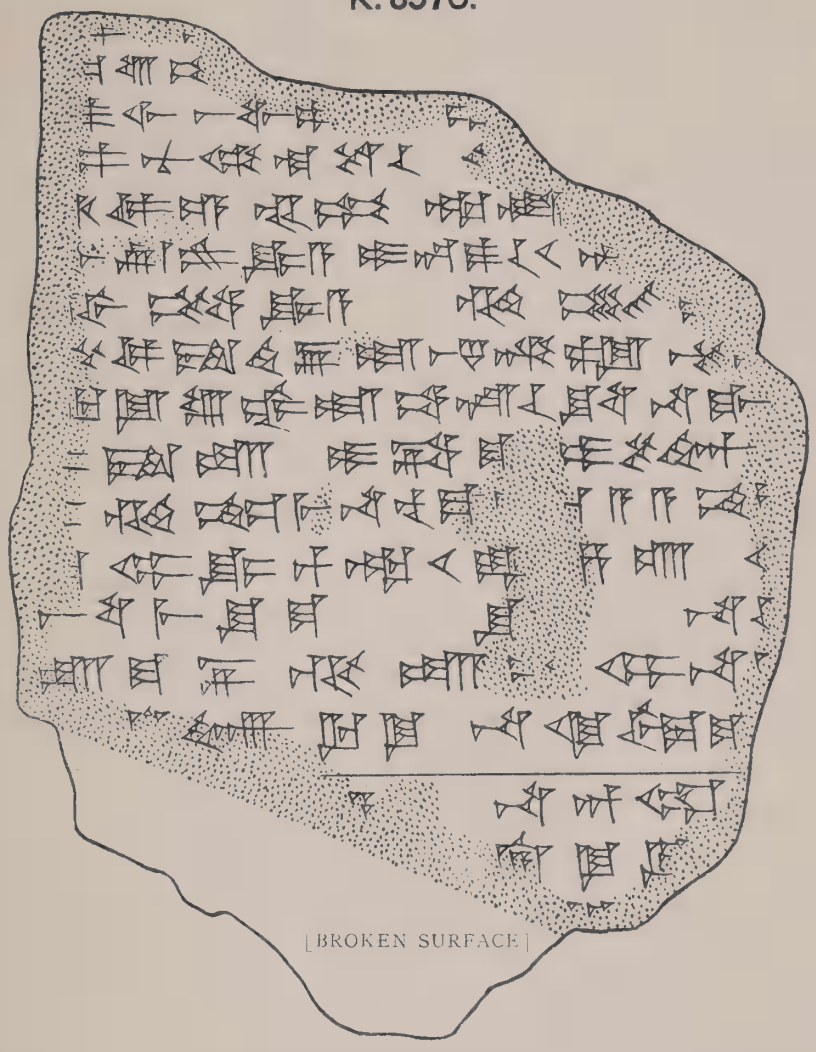


REVERSE.

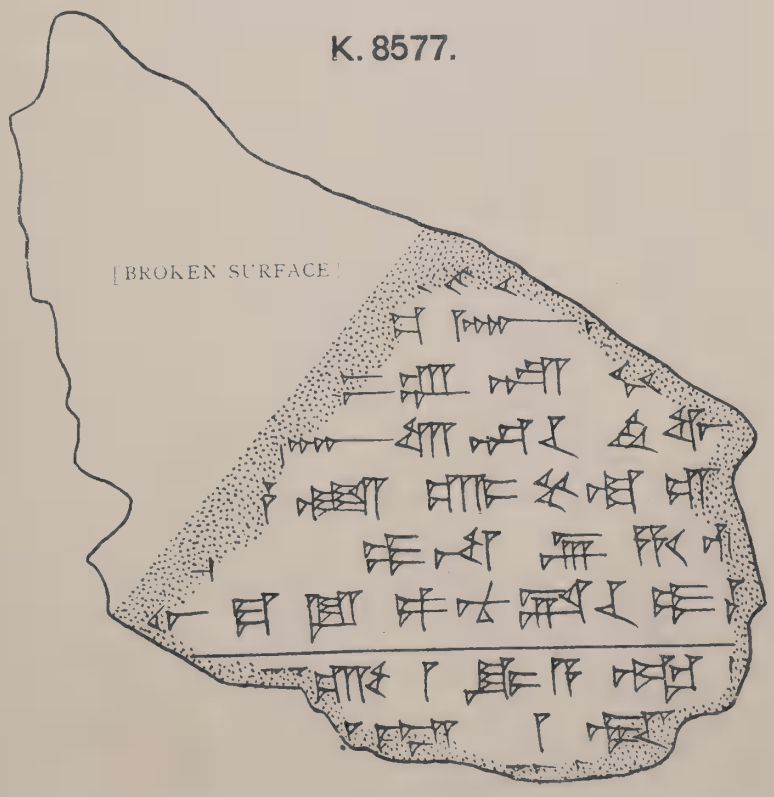


[FABLE OF THE FOX.]

K. 8570.



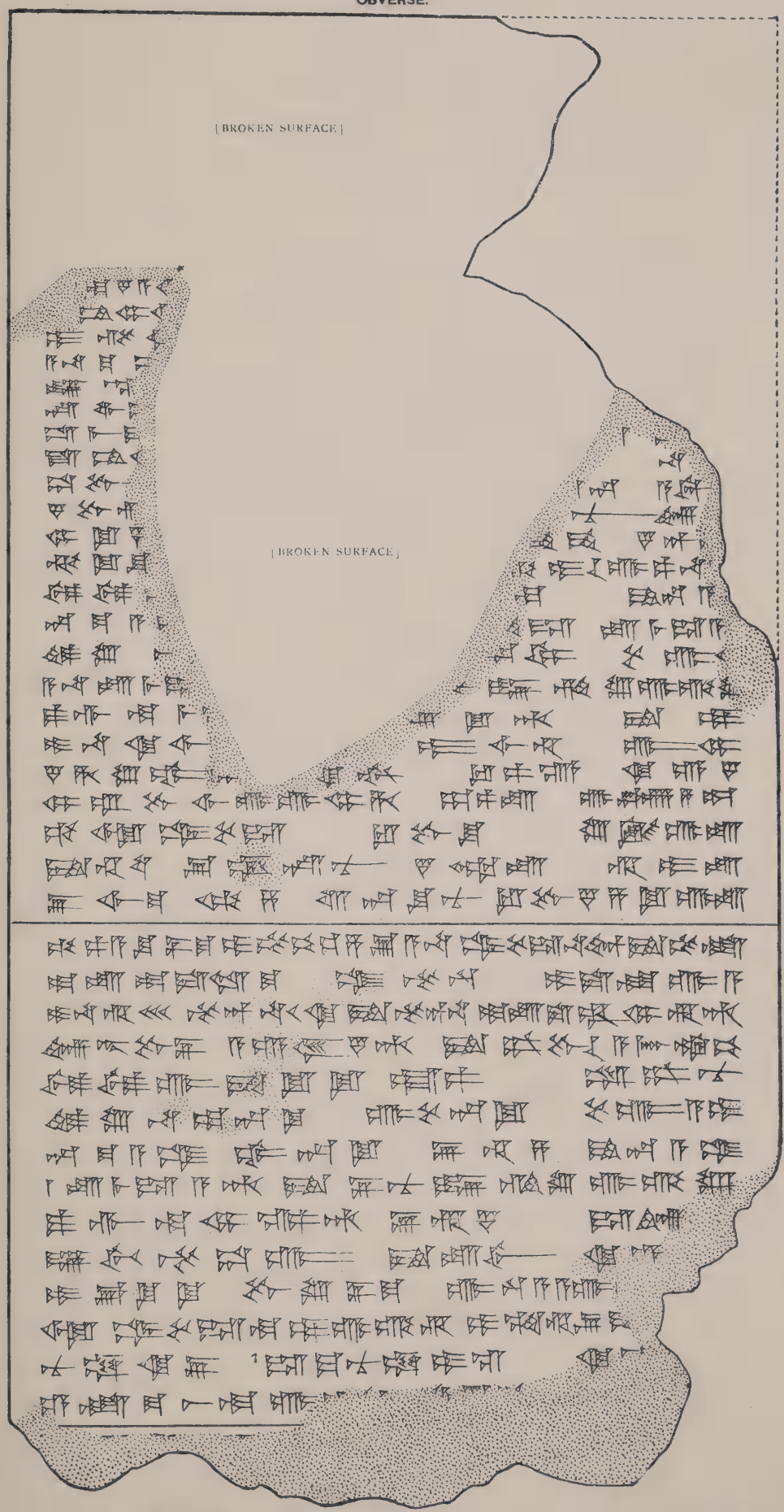
K. 8577.



[FABLE OF THE HORSE AND THE OX.]

K. 3456+D.T.43.

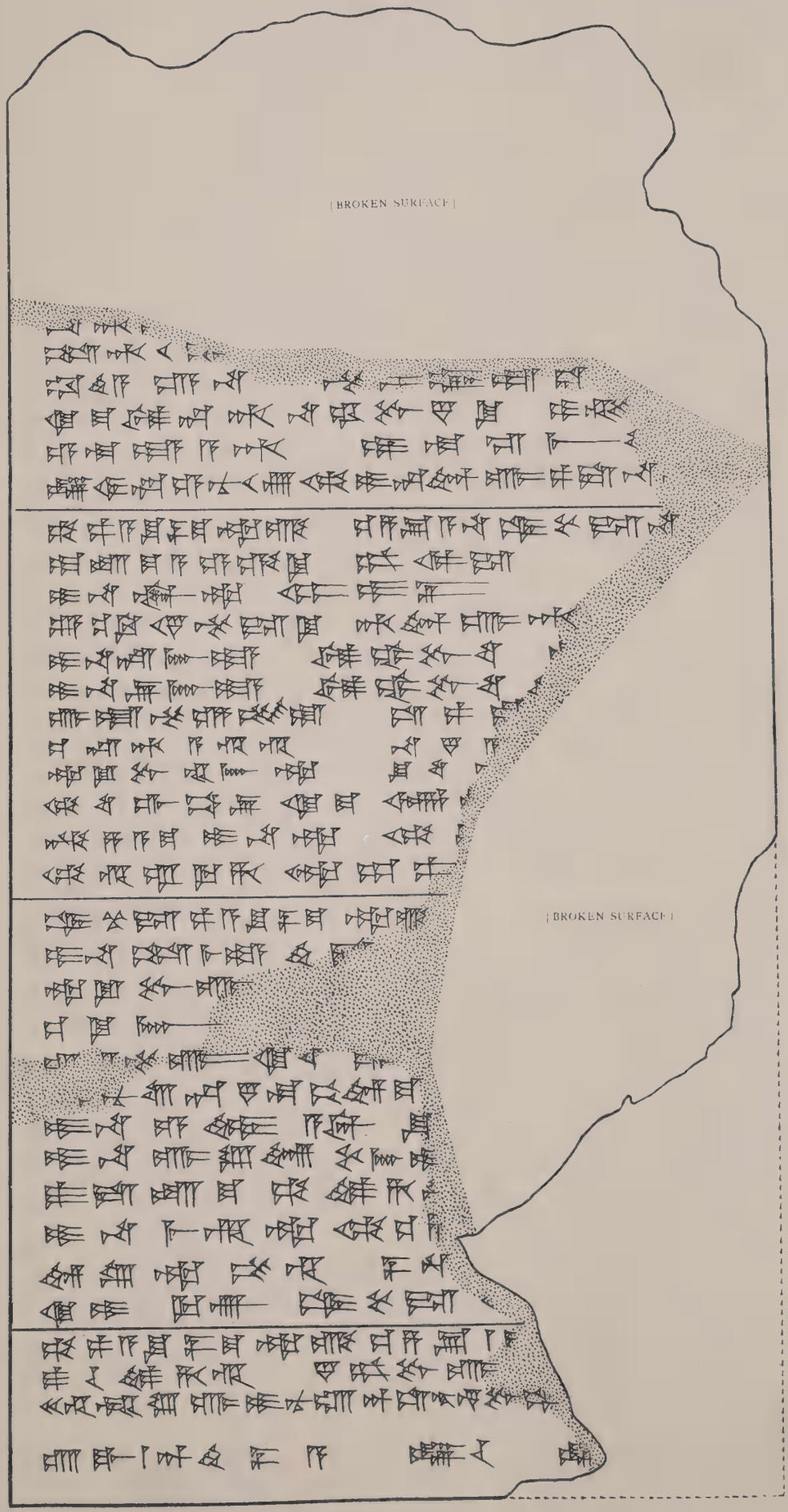
OBVERSE.



1. Erasure by the scribe.

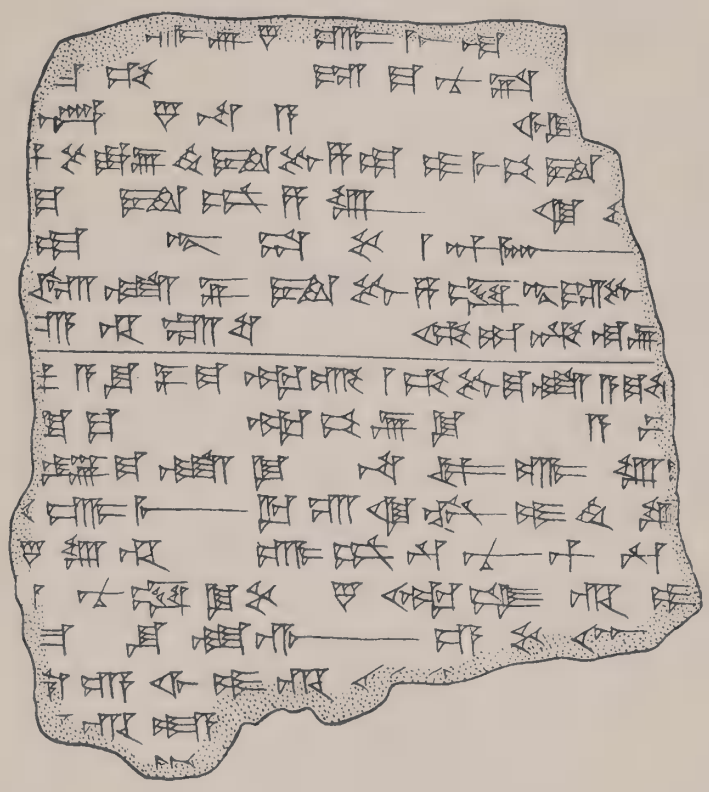
[FABLE OF THE HORSE AND THE OX.]

K. 3456+D.T.43.
REVERSE.

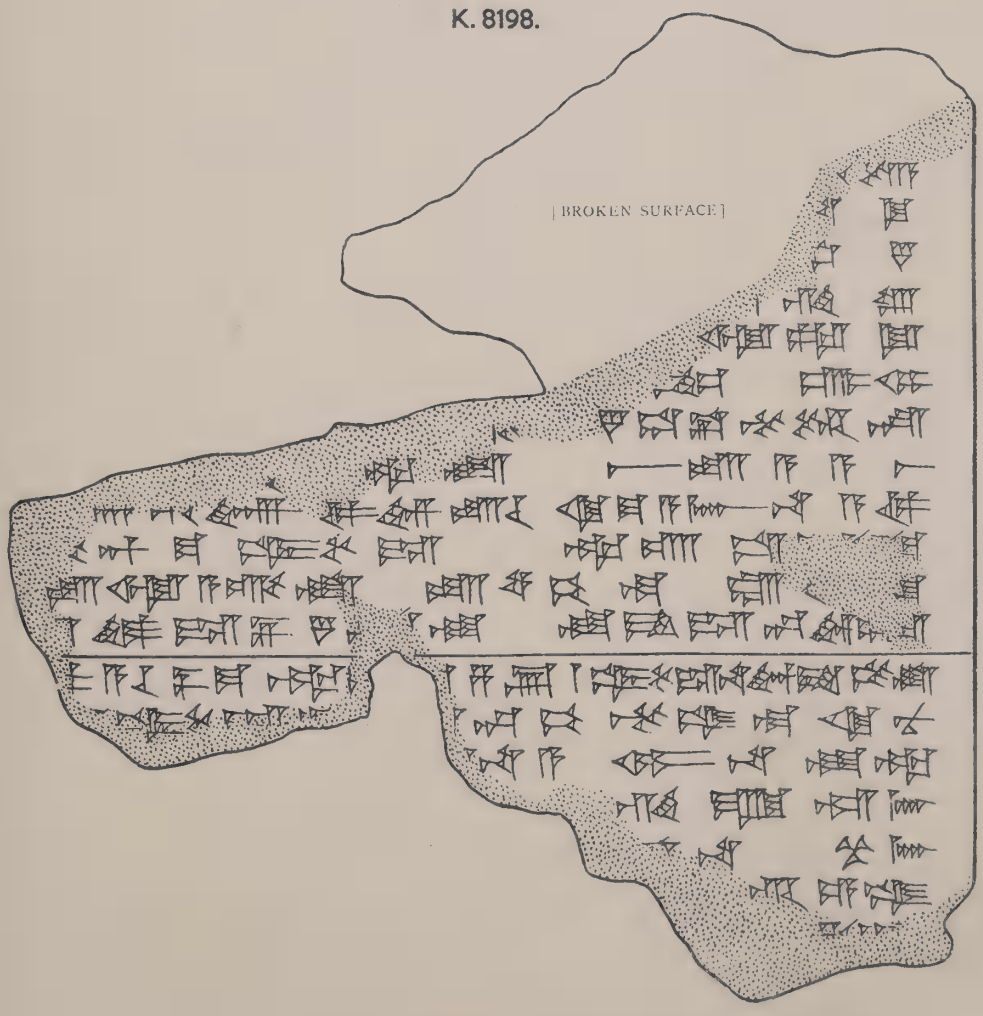


[FABLE OF THE HORSE
AND THE OX.]

K. 8197.



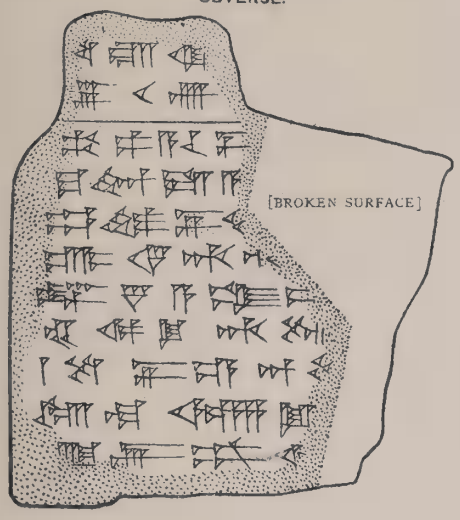
K. 8198.



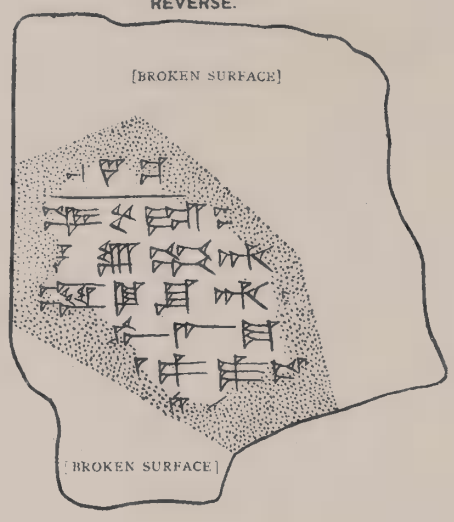
[FABLE OF THE HORSE AND THE OX.]

K. 10916+K.12029.

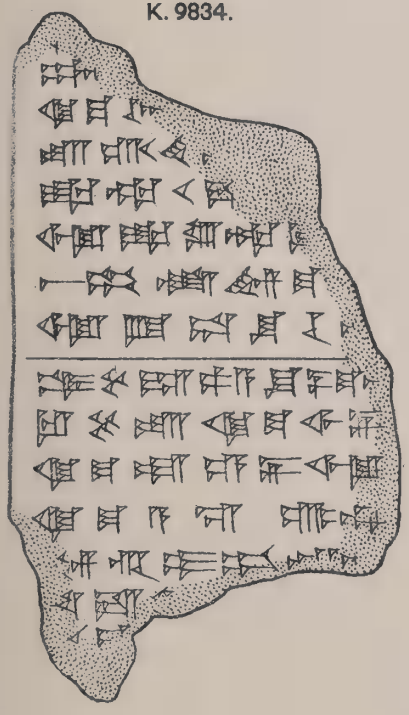
OBVERSE.



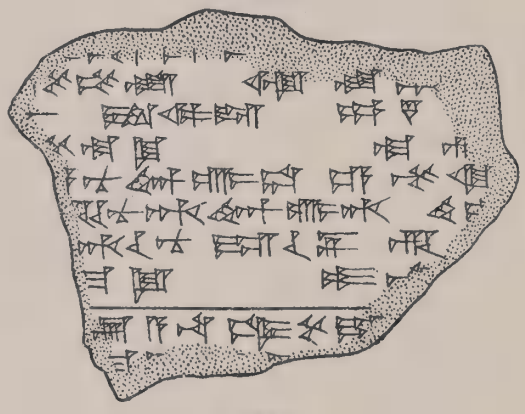
REVERSE.



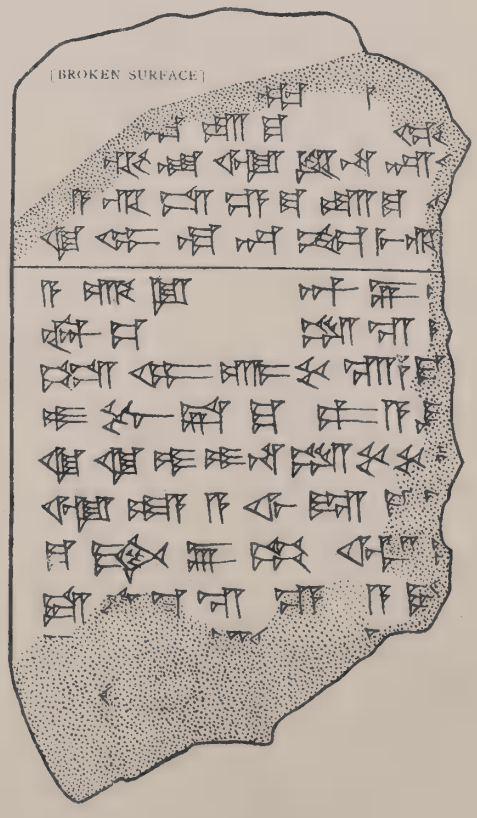
K. 9834.



K. 8199.



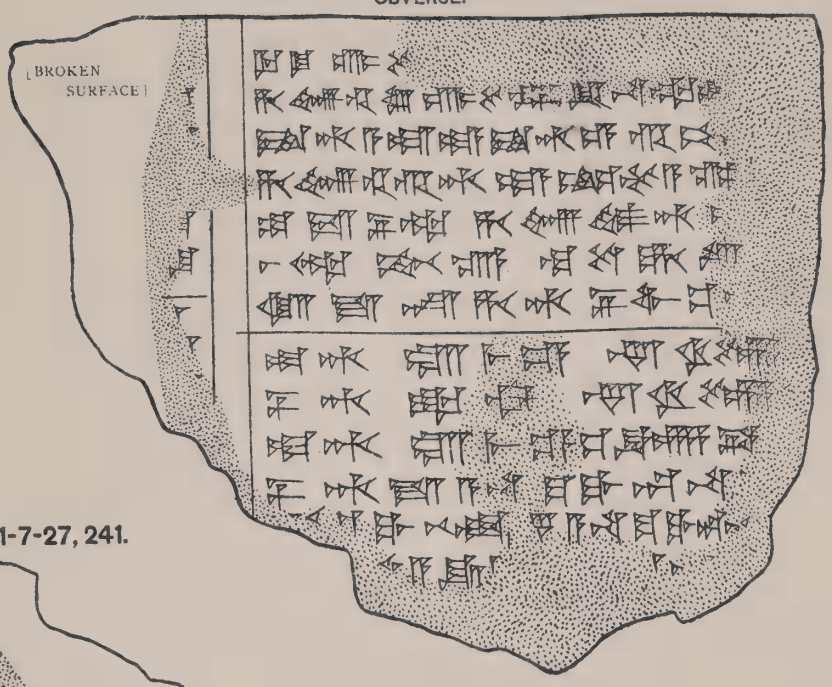
K. 8592.
REVERSE.



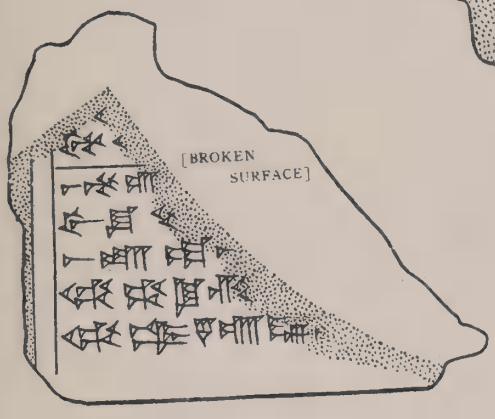
K. 8592.
OBVERSE.

81-7-4, 294.

OBVERSE.

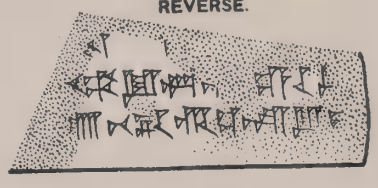


81-7-27, 241.

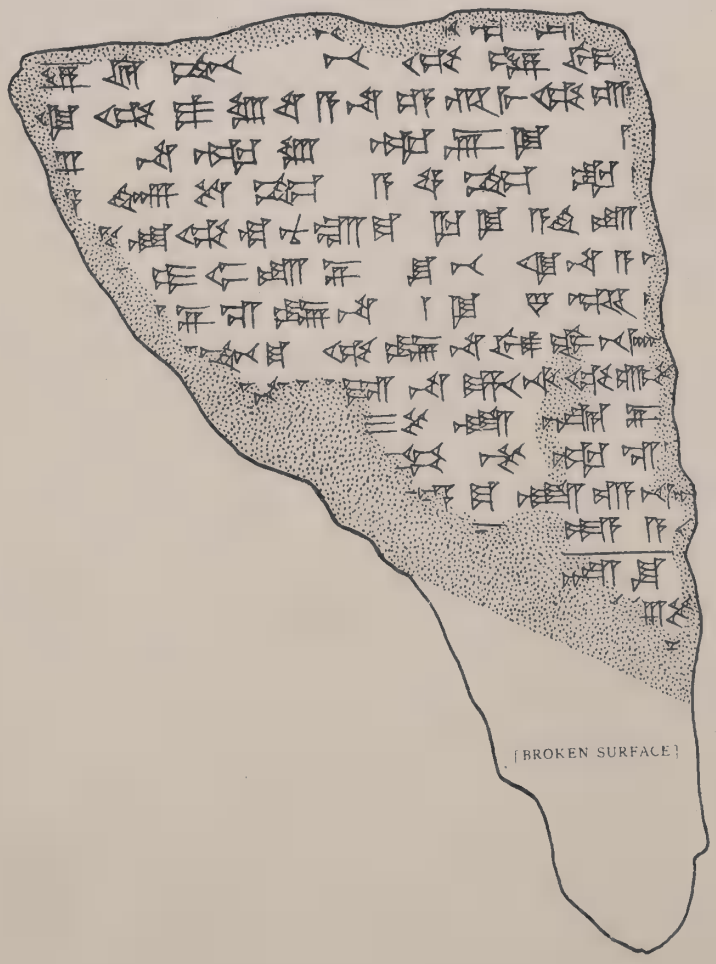


81-7-4, 294.

REVERSE.



K. 8567.



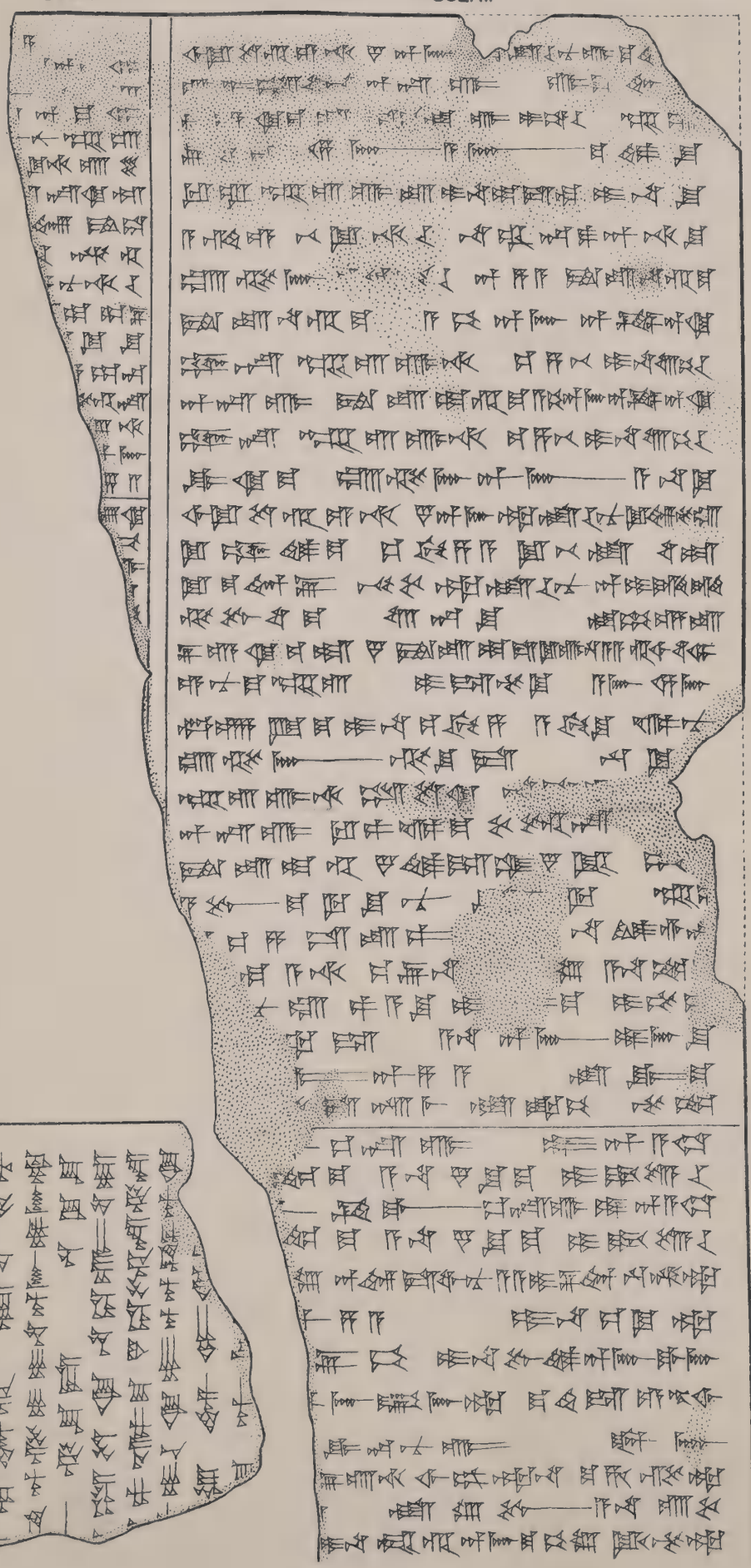
[LEGENDS OF THE GOD ZU.]

K. 3454+K. 3935.

OBVERSE.

COL. I.

COL. II.

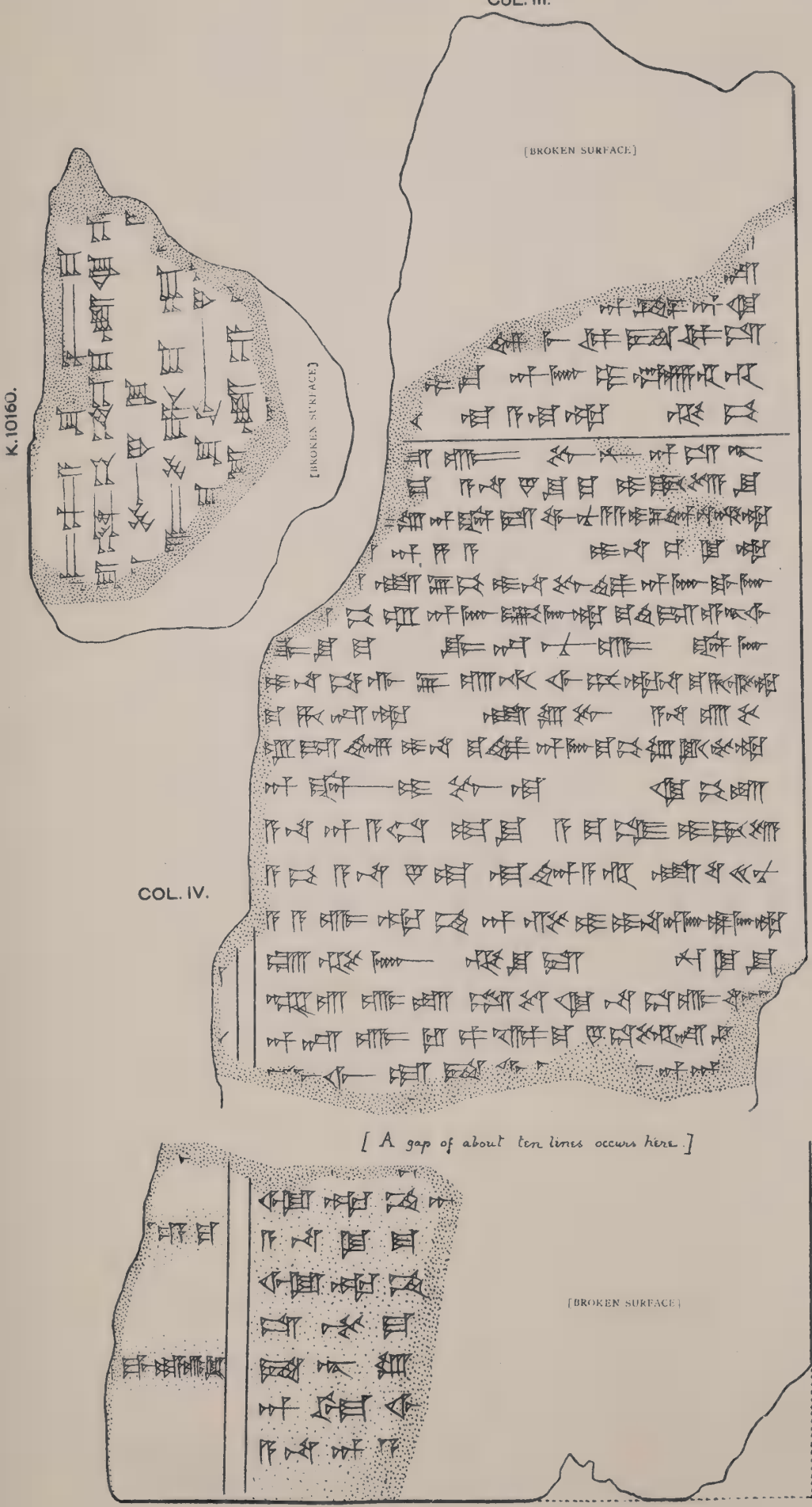


COL. II. CONTINUED.

[LEGENDS OF THE GOD ZU.]

K. 3454+K. 3935.
REVERSE.

COL. III.

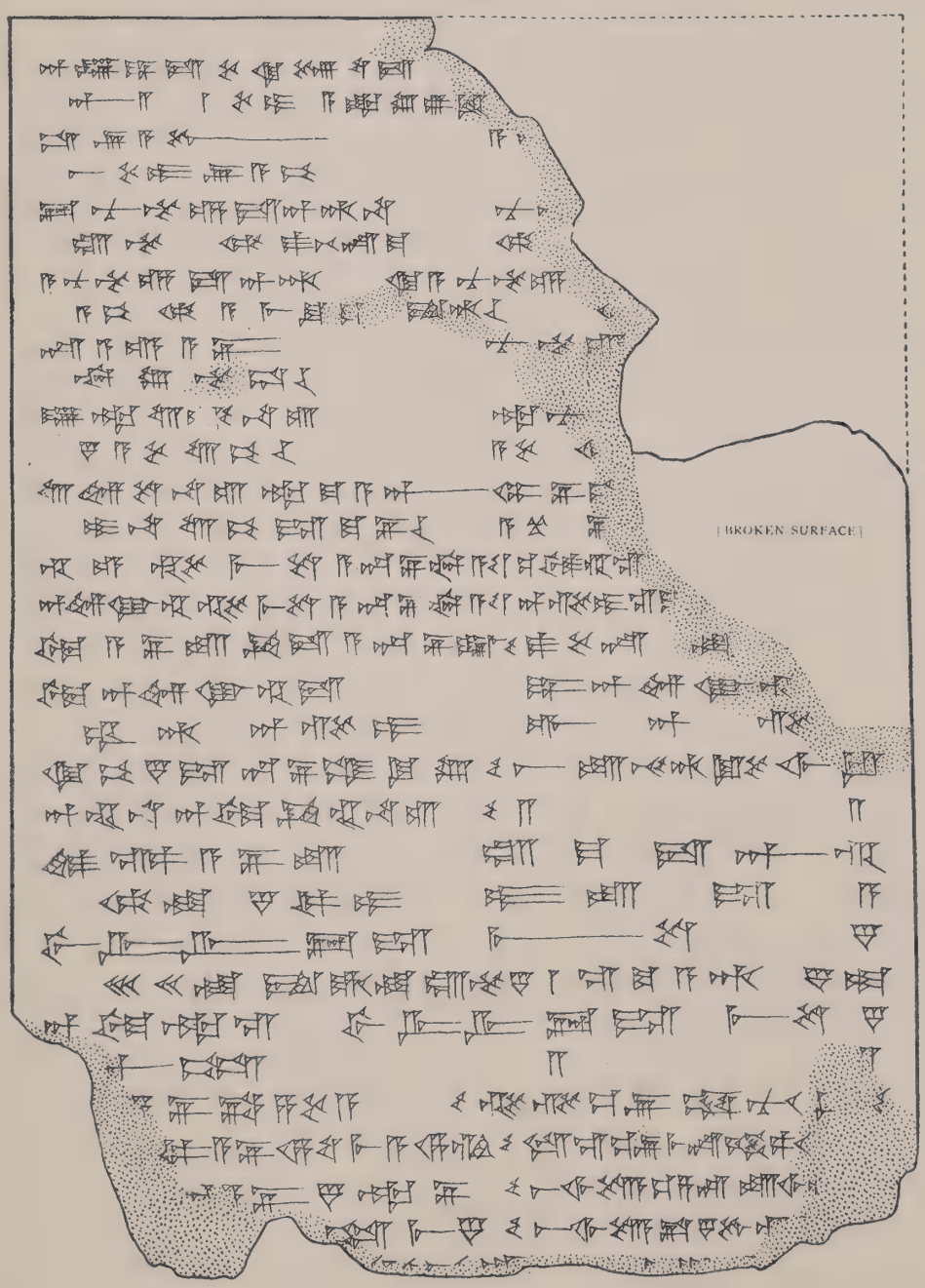


[A gap of about ten lines occurs here.]

[LEGENDS OF THE GOD ZU.]

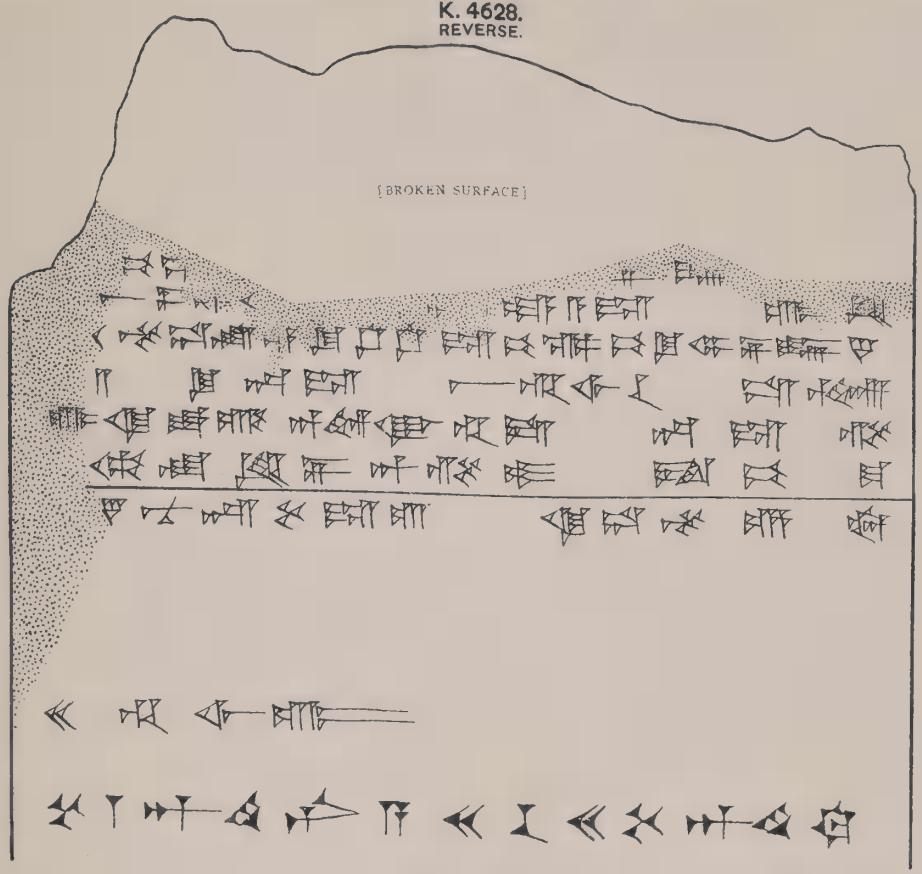
K. 4628.

OBVERSE.

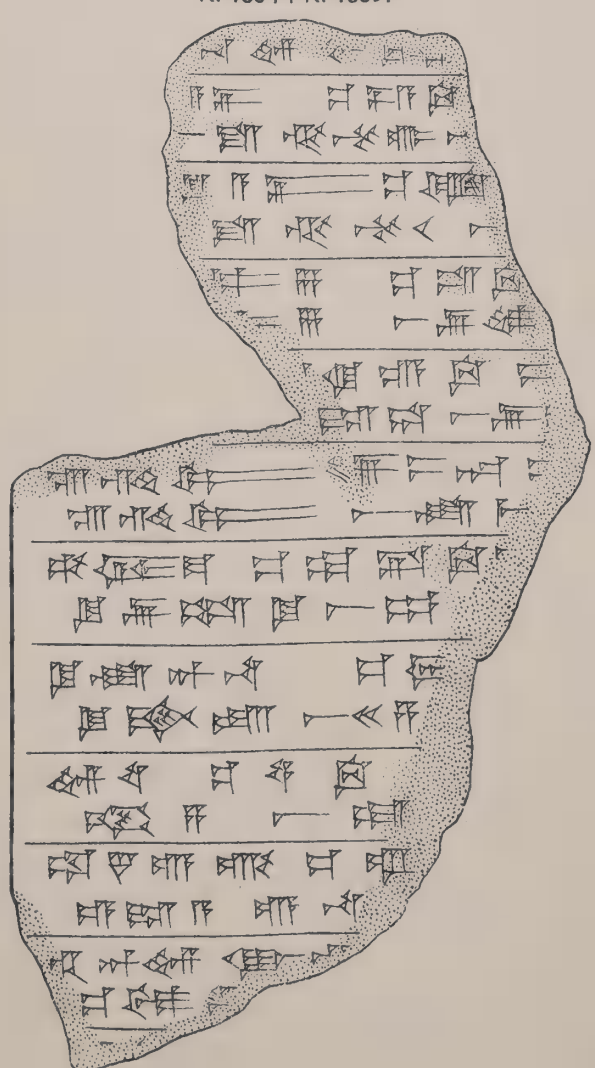


[LEGENDS OF THE GOD ZU.]

K. 4628.
REVERSE.

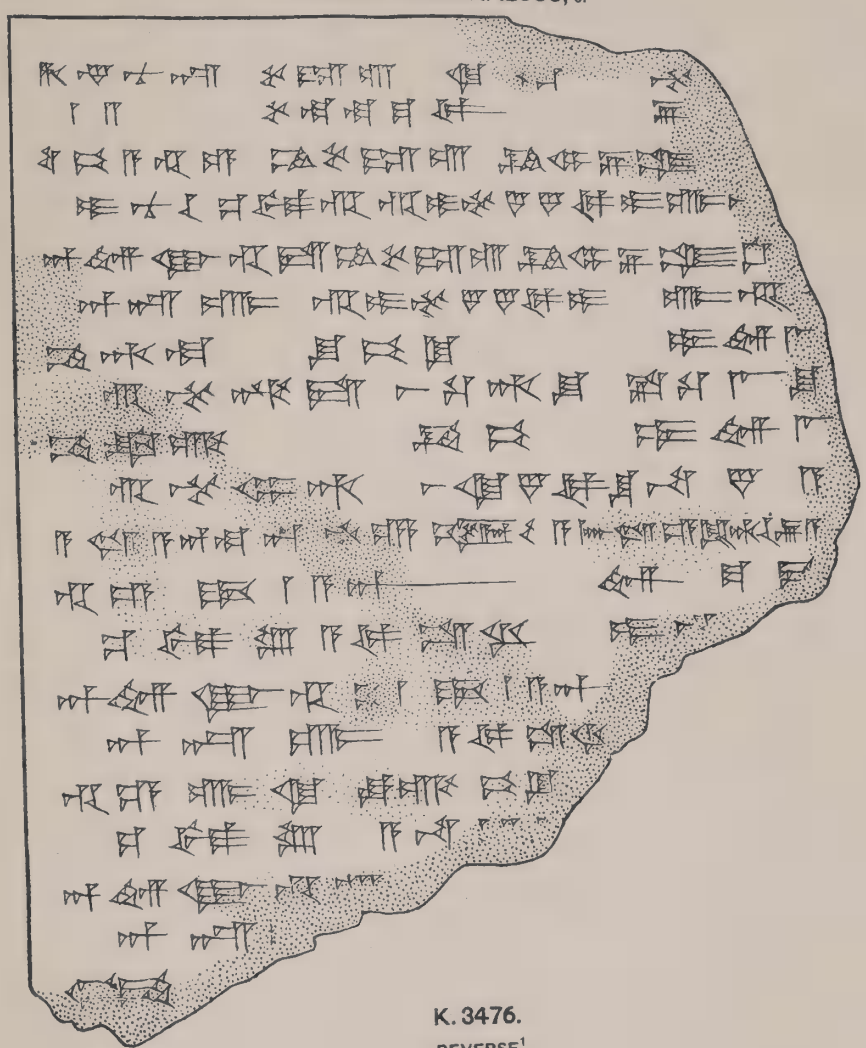


K. 4864 + K. 4869.



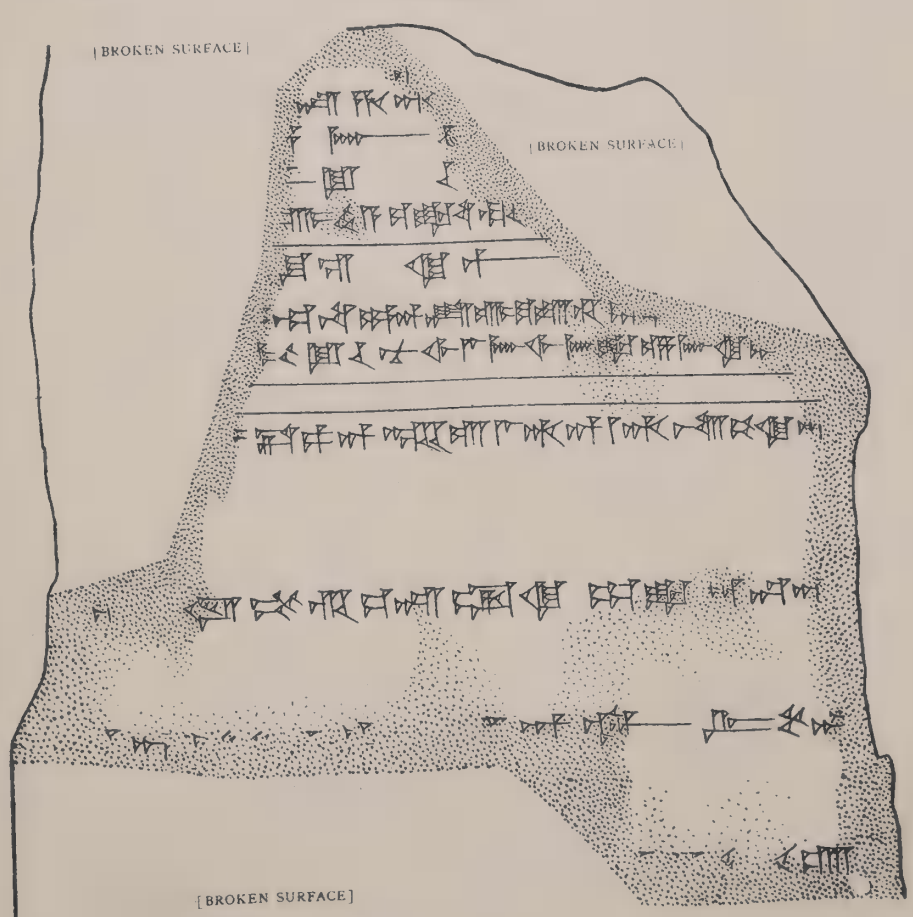
[LEGENDS OF THE GOD ZU.]

K. 5187+K. 5259+K. 12000, 0.



K. 3476.

REVERSE.[1]

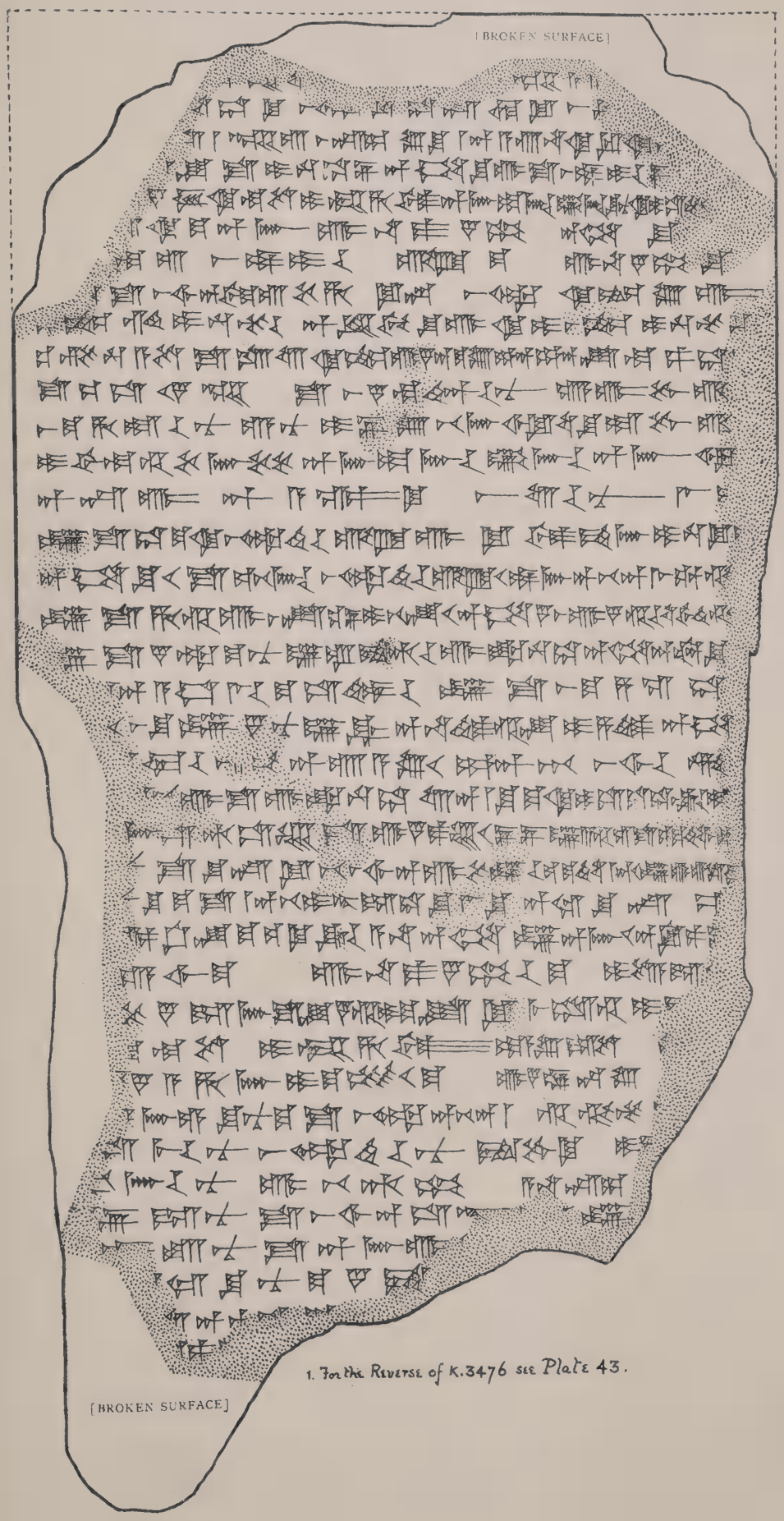


1. For the Obverse of K.3476 see Plate 44.

[LEGENDS OF THE GOD ZU.]

K. 3476.

OBVERSE.[1]

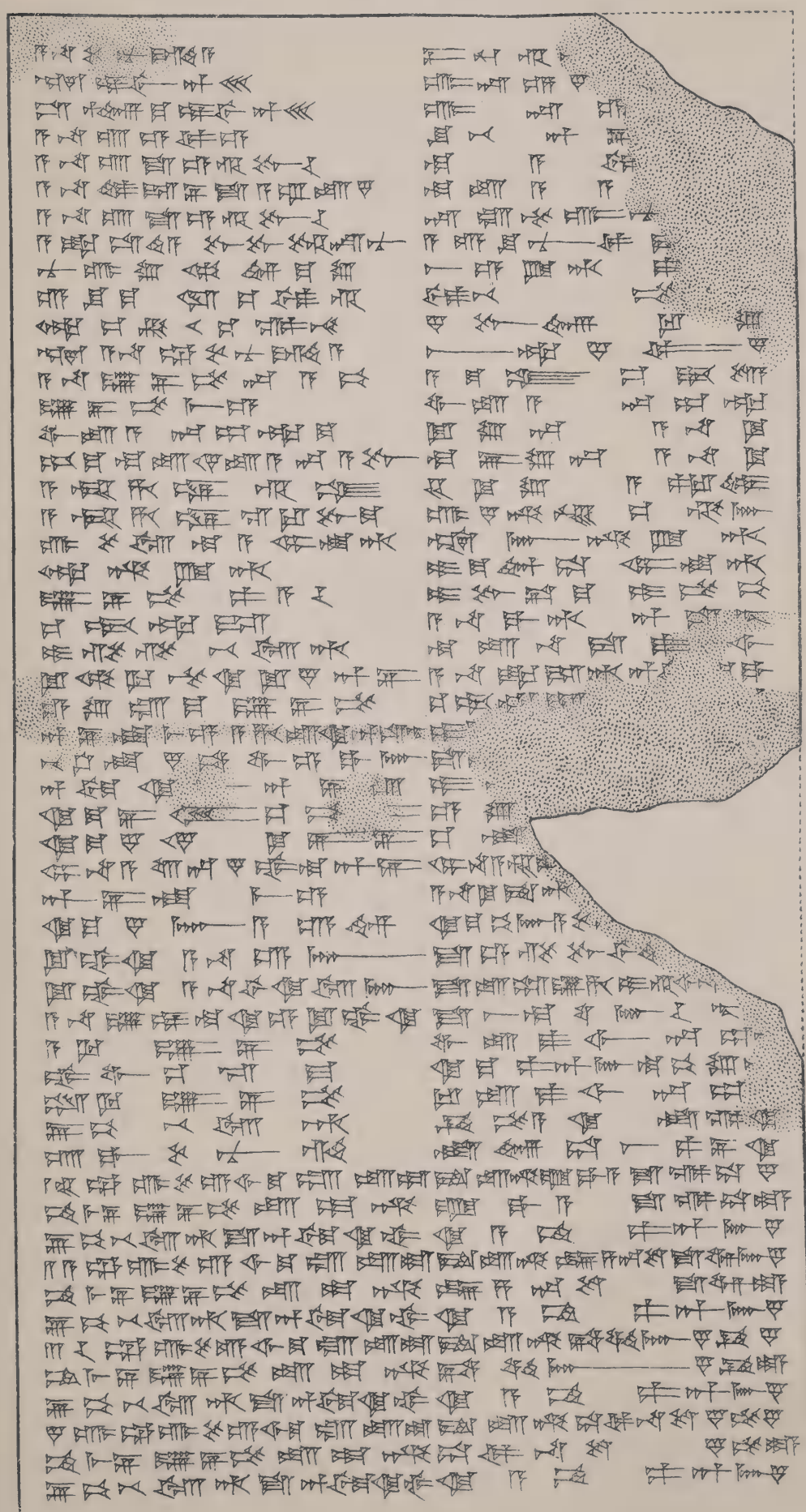


1. For the Reverse of K.3476 see Plate 43.

[ISHTAR'S DESCENT INTO HADES.]

K. 162.

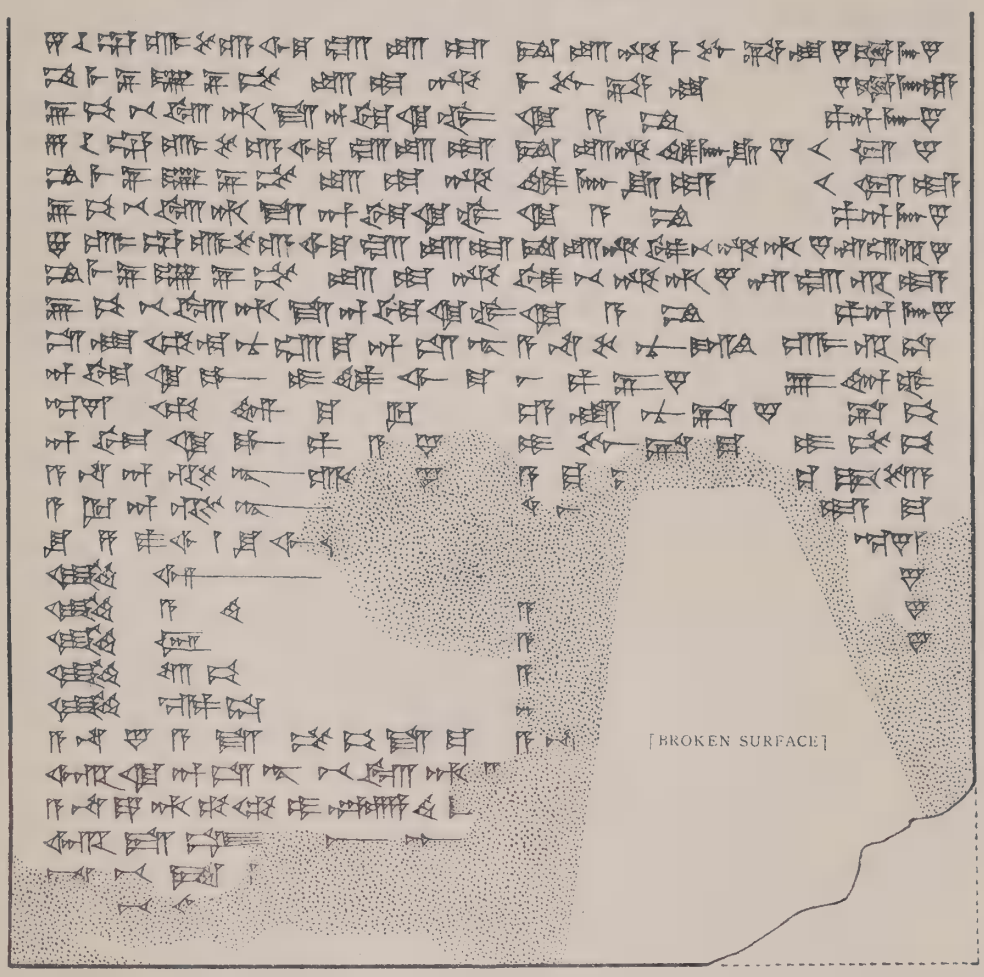
OBVERSE.



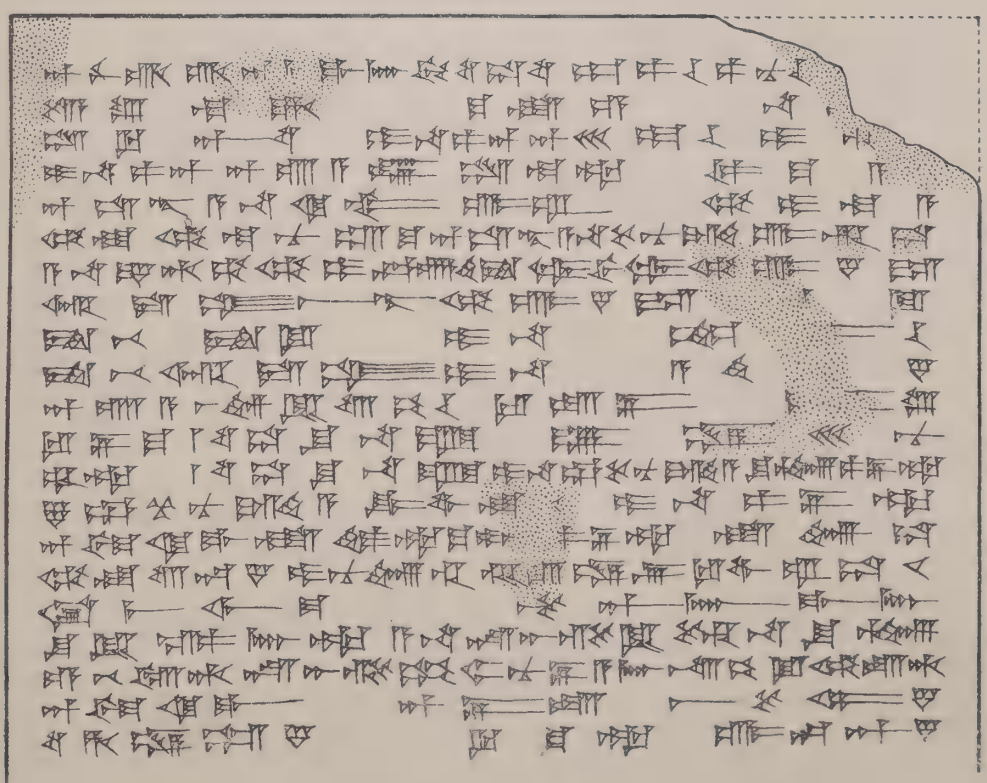
[ISHTAR'S DESCENT INTO HADES.]

K. 162.

OBVERSE (CONTINUED).



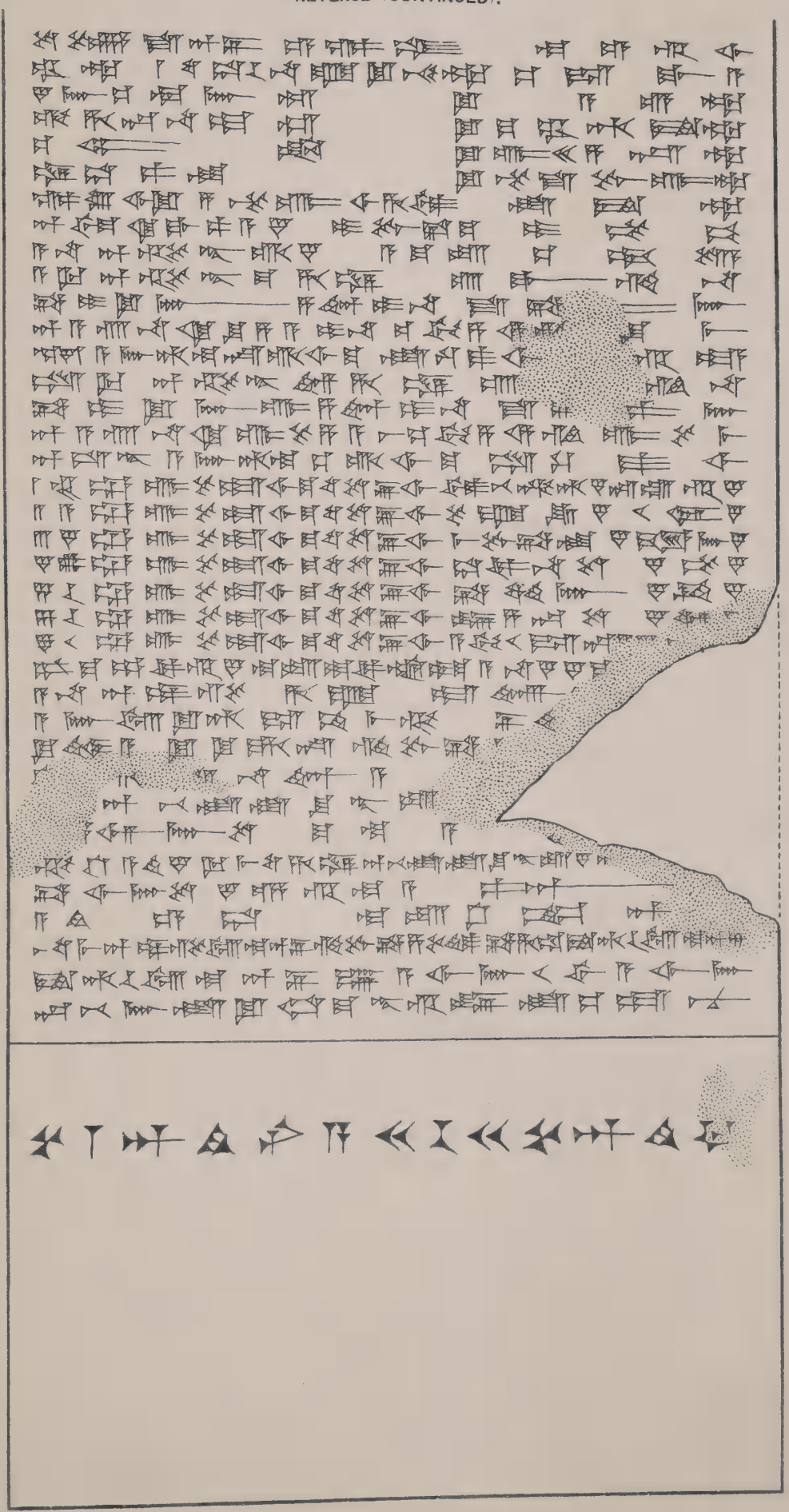
REVERSE.



[ISHTAR'S DESCENT INTO HADES.]

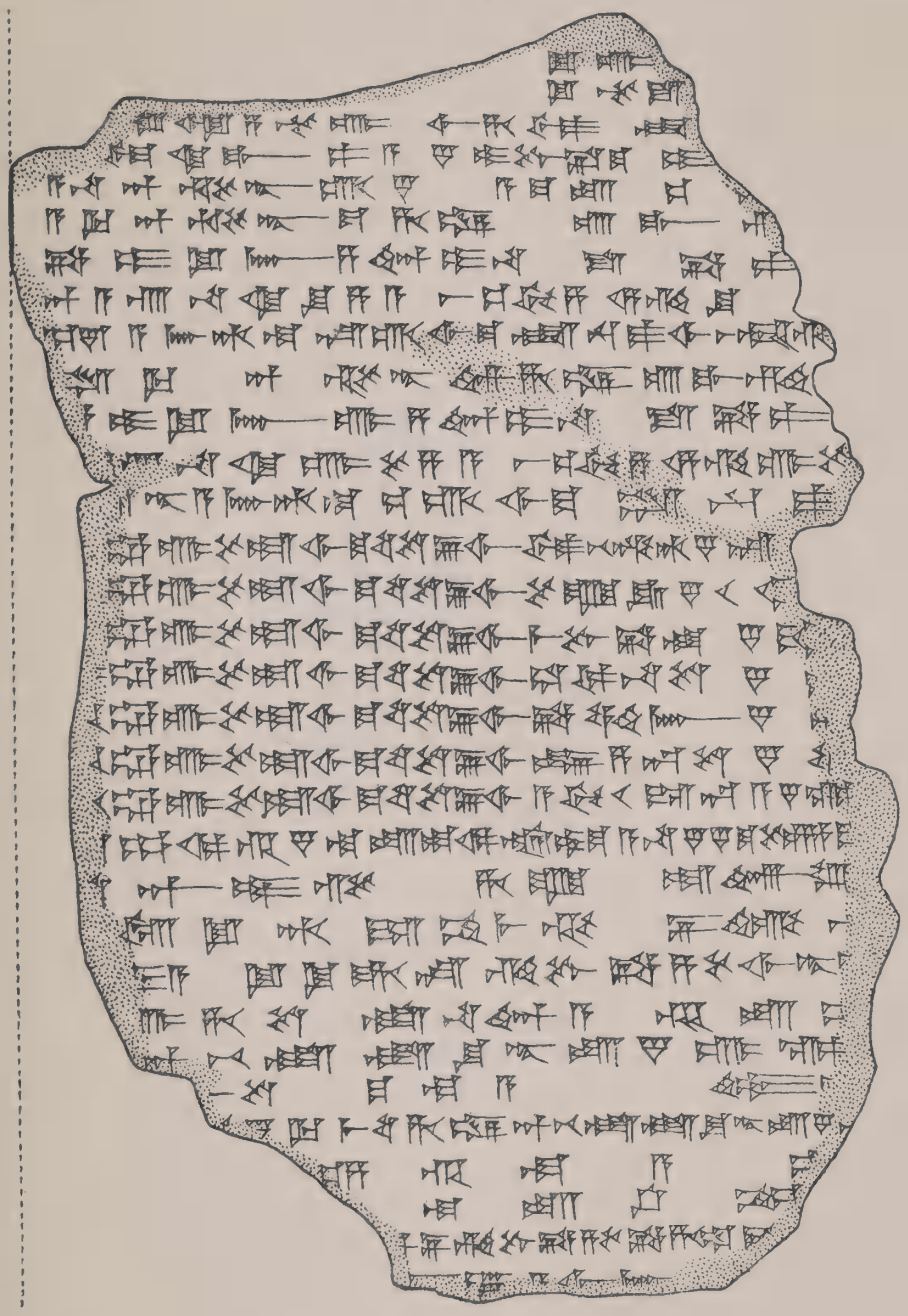
K. 162.

REVERSE (CONTINUED).



[ISHTAR'S DESCENT INTO HADES.]

K. 7600.



K. 7601.

[LEGEND OF [illegible].]

K. 3399 - K. 3934.

REVERSE.

COL. IV.

[BROKEN SURFACE]

COL. II.

OBVERSE.

COL. III.

COL. I.

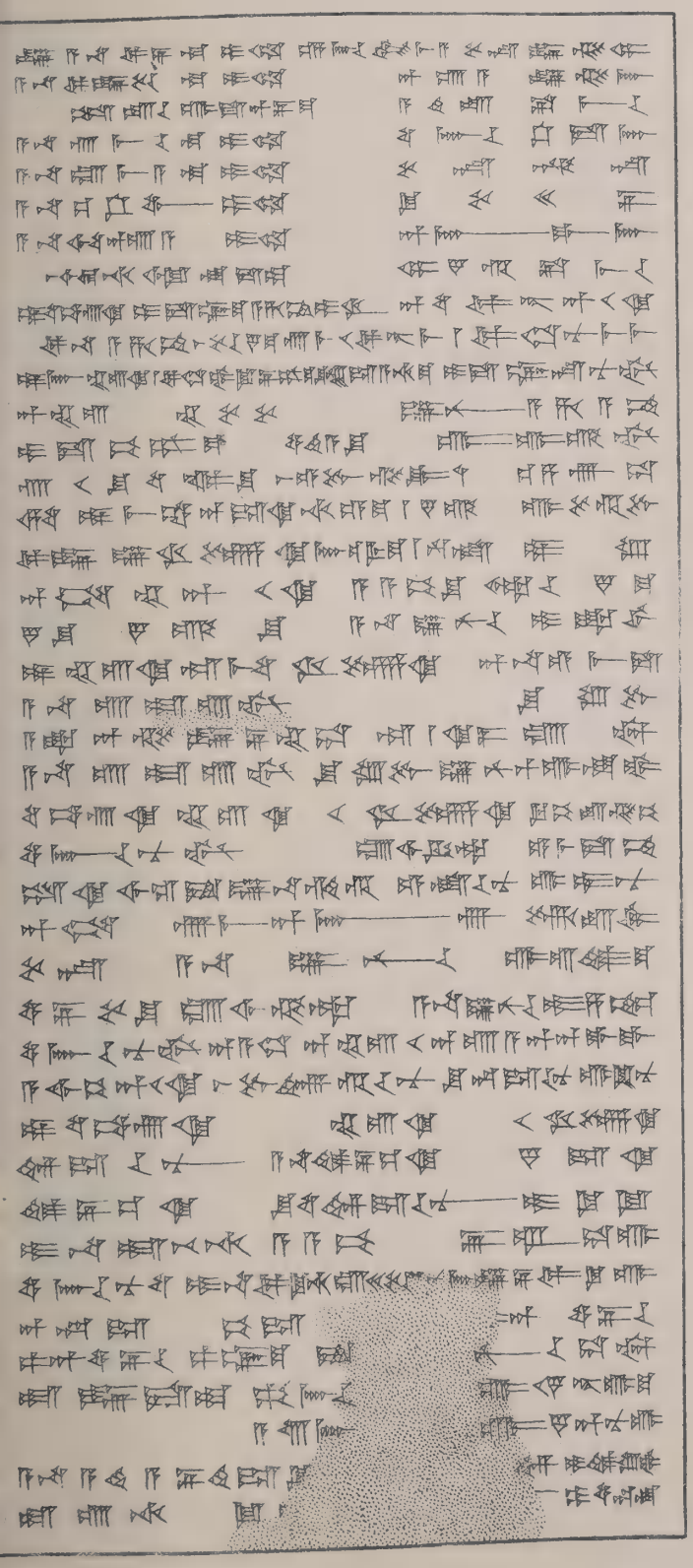
[BROKEN SURFACE]

[BROKEN SURFACE]

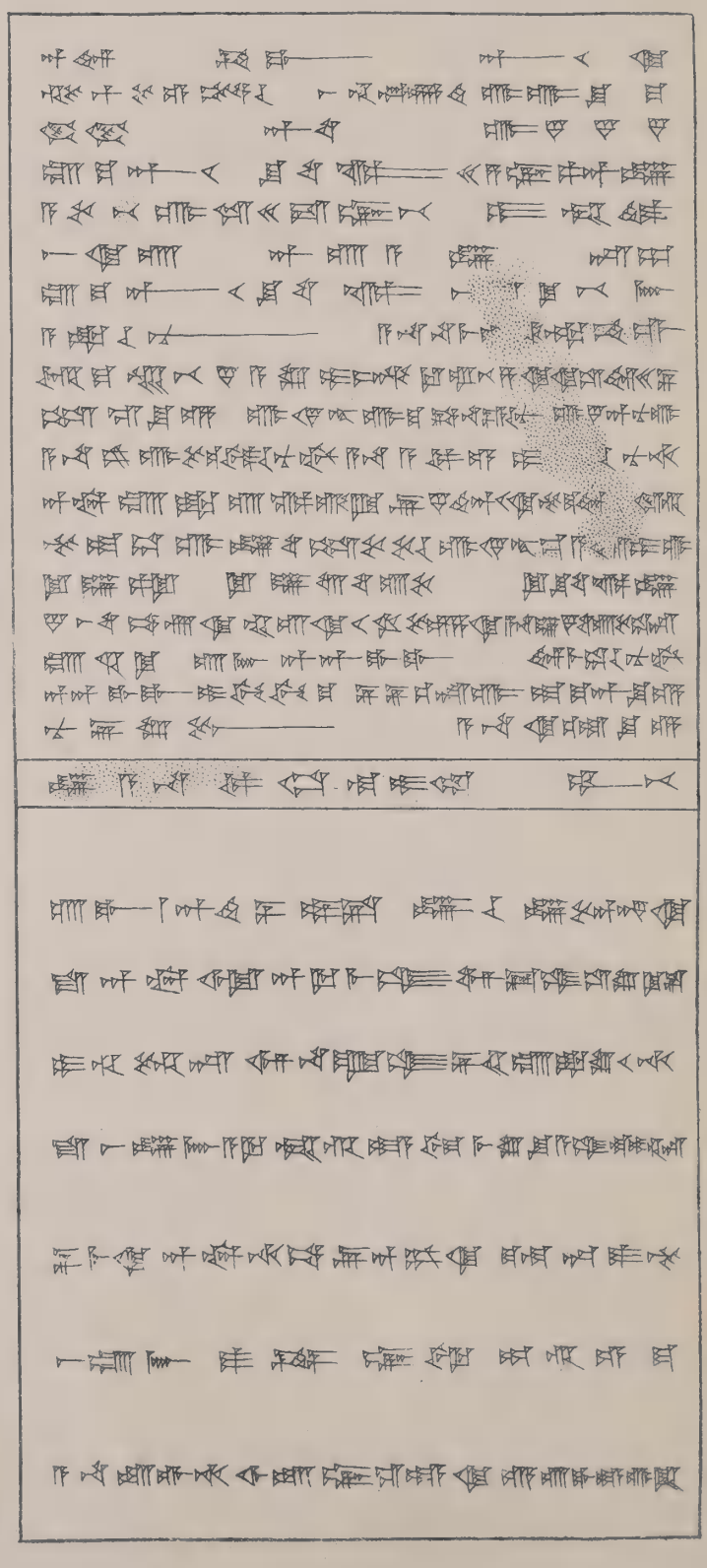
1. Impressed when the clay was nearly dry

D.T.1.

OBVERSE.



REVERSE.



1253

12704

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3711
B73
1896
v.15

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